GUNS, DRUGS AND THREESOMES

WITH SAVAGES, STARRING SALMA HAYEK, DIRECTOR OLIVER STONE HAD REEL GUYS AT 'WARGASM' PAGE 21

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An artist's rendering of the proposed redevelopment at the Plaza of Nations. CONTRIBUTED

Bold new plan for Plaza of Nations

Development.
Rezoning application for ambitious vision under city review

KYLE FARQUHARSON
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After years of uncertainty, a new redevelopment and rezoning proposal would see Vancouver's Plaza of Nations receive its long-awaited revamp, producing an edifice unlike any other in the city.

The plan — submitted by the firm James K.M. Cheng Architects on June 21 — includes a pi-shaped double-tower building with a crossing horizontal structure at the top. Once complete, the new Plaza of Nations would include daycare facilities, community-centre space, amenities, housing and a practice rink for the Vancouver Canucks.

Mixed housing, including rent-only properties, would also be part of the new plaza, according to the application.

Vancouver city councillor Raymond Louie says he is optimistic about the plan's potential, but notes that the rezoning application remains under review by city staff.

"There's much detail still to be worked through, but at this point in time I'm looking forward to seeing that detail ... and ensuring that the city benefits from this development proposal" in both the near and long term, Louie said.

Considerations for the prospective development include ensuring there are enough commercial spaces, and that the public plaza — which will host outdoor performances — is of appropriate size, Louie added. He expects the process for approval will continue for a year to 18 months before any construction can begin.

Born in Hong Kong, James Cheng is a former apprentice of renowned local architect Arthur Erickson, and he has designed many of Vancouver's most prominent condominiums, including the protuberant Shangri La Hotel that has dominated the downtown skyline since 2007.

He is credited with originating the "Vancouverism" style of construction, which is typified by the myriad glass-and-steel high-rises of North False Creek.

Online

- For more news, visit metronews.ca

Not afraid to pucker up in public

Most Canadians are fans of some good ol' PDA, according to a new survey PAGE 8

Maple gelato a Sensation in Italy

Vancouver man scoops up two gold medals at Firenze Gelato Festival PAGE 6

S&M pics spur investigation into Mountie

B.C. corporal reportedly posed for photos posted on bondage site PAGE 3

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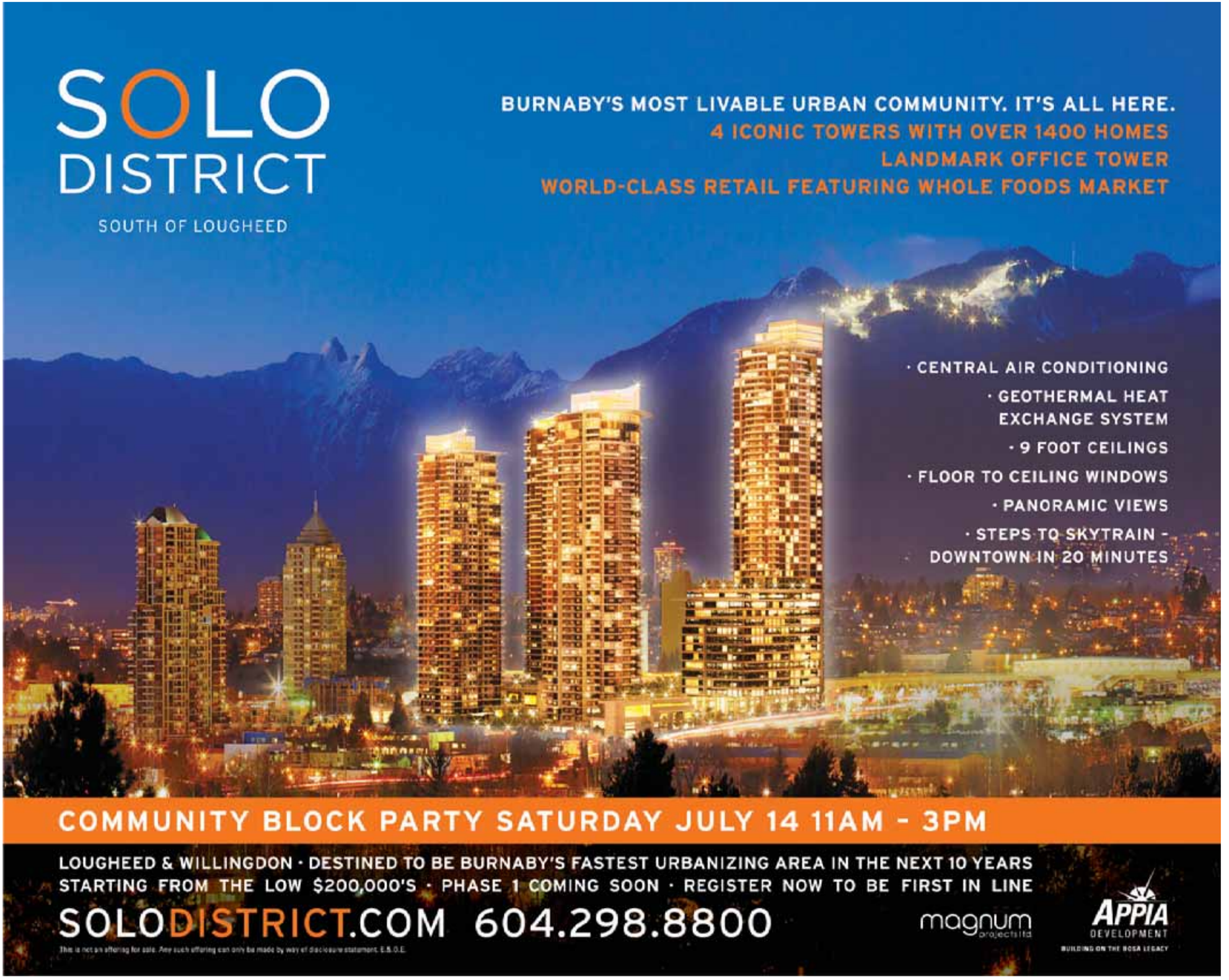
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Long weekend.
Police catch twice as many drunk drivers as last year

Despite a summer awareness campaign and pleas from families of victims killed by drunk drivers, Vancouver police say they have caught double the impaired drivers over the Canada Day long weekend compared to last year.

In the first three nights of the CounterAttack campaign, VPD spokesperson Const. Lindsey Houghton said the force gave out 259 violation tickets and 28 people failed their roadside tests this year.

Last year, in the same time period, the VPD issued 131 violation tickets and had 13 people fail their roadside tests.

"I am here to tell you again, all summer long, through strategically placed road checks, police will be looking for impaired drivers," Houghton said. "If you choose to drink and drive, you could lose your car or, worse, kill yourself or someone else."

"No Vancouver police officer wants to tell anyone that someone they loved was killed by a drunk driver," he added.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Quoted

"No Vancouver police officer wants to tell anyone that someone they loved was killed by a drunk driver." VPD spokesperson Const. Lindsey Houghton

VPD to hold first ever women's-safety fair

Raising awareness.
Saturday event will feature community resources and a women-only personal-safety demonstration

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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Vancouver police will hold its first ever women's-safety fair designed to give women the tools to protect themselves and raise awareness about community resources.

The fair will feature numerous information booths by community groups and a women-only personal-safety demonstration by the VPD.

"At the heart of the presentation, we're going to be teaching awareness of environment, mindset ... and some physical skills that are simple enough to learn and understand just to get out of a questionable or dangerous situation," said Sgt. Colleen Yee of the sex crimes unit.

Yee said the fair follows the success of the VPD's Don't Be That Guy campaign last year.

According to VPD stats, there have been 143 cases of sexual assaults in the first three months of 2012.

Anna Foschi, with the Vancouver/Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society, said it is essential for women and their children to have awareness and knowledge of community resources and how to access them.

"The fair will offer preparedness, the ability to have and execute a safety plan for women living in violent relationships, (which) can be key to saving their life," Foschi said.

"If there is a problem, seek help. Help is available," she added.

The fair will be held at the Trout Lake Community Centre at 3360 Victoria Dr. on Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Follow Phylicia Torrevillas on Twitter @ptorrevillas

Sgt. Colleen Yee of the sex crimes unit encourages women and their families to attend the Vancouver Police Department's first ever women's-safety fair to learn more about community resources and basic self-defence moves to protect themselves from risky situations. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Quoted

"The fair will offer preparedness, the ability to have and execute a safety plan for women living in violent relationships (which) can be key to saving their life." Anna Foschi, of the Vancouver/Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society

RCMP launch probe over officer in S&M photos

Mounties in British Columbia say they have launched a code-of-conduct investigation into an RCMP officer after he reportedly posed for graphic pictures that were posted on an adult bondage website.

Randy Beck, B.C.'s Acting Assistant RCMP Commissioner, says they were alerted to the photos in December 2010, but believed they existed only on the officer's personal flash drive.

In March of this year, police say they learned the pictures were posted on a website and began another investigation.

In a statement, Beck says that as the situation evolved he asked the Richmond RCMP to conduct the code-of-conduct investigation.

Published reports say Cpl. Jim Brown is the subject of the pictures, which show sexually explicit torture images, including one picture where the man is holding a large butcher knife to a naked woman's throat.

Brown played a minor role in the police investigation into serial killer Robert Pickton, but Missing Women's inquiry commissioner Wally Oppal says there's no evidence to support reopening the hearings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 NEWS

On the web

Hot dog! Competitive eaters flaunt their stuff

On Wednesday, Sonya Thomas, 45, downed 45 hotdogs at the Fourth of July hotdog-eating contest at Coney Island. In honour of her achievement we've compiled a slideshow of the world's greatest competitive eaters. Go to metronews.ca to see more.

Mobile news

French runner Mahiedine Mekhissi-Benabbad has been labelled a world-class bully by the public and press after he was caught celebrating his 300-metre run by shoving and pushing a 14-year-old girl dressed as a mascot at the European Championships. Scan the code to read the full story and watch the video that prompted the uproar.

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Ecologist's take. Seawall expansion must account for environment

A proposal to extend Vancouver's seawall from Jericho Beach to Kitsilano Beach may threaten one of the few remaining intertidal marine habitats in the city.

But proper foresight by city council could help mitigate the negative consequences, said UBC marine ecologist Jamie Slogan.

"It depends on what they plan to do with the seawall, whether they're planning a flat seawall or sloped riprap," he said.

Riprap is a type of foreshore construction with concrete rubble, or pitched man-made rock, which Slogan recommends to help replicate the existing habitat.

Vancouver city councillor and former longtime Kitsilano resident Adriane Carr believes a seawall extension would add both a safe bike route and valuable walking path.

"Because it's rock and concrete that will go in there, we're not talking about toxic substances," said Carr, adding that, while the area is popular for mollusks, sea stars, crabs and algae, there is no active fish run along the foreshore in question.

However, like Slogan, Carr believes the seawall extension project must involve care and attention toward intertidal species.

Christianne Wilhelmson of the Georgia Strait Alliance also favours creating more recreational space on the shore, but believes a full environmental assessment is necessary to avoid inflicting further damage on the coastal area.

"There are always ways to build things that can help rejuvenate (the ecosystem), but I would hope that the city's first step will be to assess any impacts from construction and use on the shorelines."

Wilhelmson's organization plans to keep an eye on the city's plans, and ensure that "the right questions are asked," she added.

Financing for the seawall would be shared between Vancouver taxpayers and an anonymous private donor, and any construction will be subject to public consultation in Vancouver and federal approval — since the foreshore is technically Ottawa's jurisdiction. KYLE FARQUHARSON/FOR METRO

Running in undies for below-the-belt cancers

Underwear Affair. Event benefiting B.C. Cancer Foundation back for seventh year

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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It'll be an underwear family affair for the Alfreds clan when they dress down to raise awareness and funds for cancers below the waist this weekend.

Dad Shane, mom Melissa and kids Maya and Evan will be running in their undies for the seventh annual Underwear Affair benefiting the B.C. Cancer Foundation, which supports research and treatment at the B.C. Cancer Agency.

Shane, 42, has participated in the event since 2007, only missing the 2010 run due to a foot injury. Maya, 12, will be joining her dad in the 10-kilometre run, while Evan, 9, and Melissa will walk the 5k.

It's a cause close to the family's heart. Shane was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 1998.

"I called my parents to let them know," he said. "I was just telling my dad (over the phone) and he just said to me, 'I was preparing to call you to let you know that I had been diagnosed with (bladder) cancer.'"

Shane said it was a very stressful time for his family, but both have been cancer-free for a few years now.

"The care that I received made a huge difference in my life. I wouldn't have had my two kids if things had been different," he added.

According to the B.C. Cancer Agency, an estimated 48 per cent of cancers diagnosed in B.C. this year are "below the waist." These same cancers will be responsible for approximately 40 per cent of cancer deaths in the province.

The Underwear Affair takes place Saturday at Lot 6C — 88 Pacific Blvd., next to Rogers Arena. Check-in is at 3:30 p.m. and the race starts at 6 p.m.

Follow Phylicia Torrevillas on Twitter @ptorrevillas

Shane Alfreds, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 1998 and is now cancer-free, is shown during the 2011 Underwear Affair. This year, his two kids will be joining him and his wife in the 10-kilometre run and five-kilometre walk to raise funds for cancers below the waist. CONTRIBUTED

Dr. Alan Bates is up for the MLS Community MVP award for leading Vancouver's Street Soccer community. CHELSEA ALTICE/FOR METRO

Vancouver Street Soccer organizer up for MVP

The Portland FC Homeless Street Soccer team held a vote-a-thon Thursday night trying to get head coach Dr. Alan Bates to the top of the Major League Soccer's W.O.R.K.S. Community MVP competition.

"It's unfortunate they have to put a name to it because it's all about community, but tonight we're tackling it as a team," said Bates.

A local resident physician, Bates kicked off the program for people affected by homelessness in Vancouver, growing the league to nine teams.

"It's fun and it works," he said. "We just try to create a soccer team; it's not about trying to address specific problems like addiction or mental illness, but we find that people make improvements in their lives and those things just come as a positive effect."

The MVP grand prize of $10,000 could go towards equipment, meals at games and the next Homeless World Cup set for October in Mexico.

"In some ways the World Cup is just the cherry on top. The weekly practices are really the core of the program and I think where the players gain most of the benefits, knowing that the practice is on every week and their friends are going to be there," he said.

With players aged 15 to 55 and from diverse backgrounds, Bates said everyone finds support in the team and it has also raised greater public awareness on issues of homelessness.

"Most people can't identify with shooting heroin in an alley, but mostly everybody can identify with playing soccer," he said.

"You experience the highest of highs and the lowest of lows, scoring a goal or losing a game, and everybody feels those kinds of things. And it's good practice for our players to feel those strong emotions in a safe setting where life goes on."

CHELSEA ALTICE/FOR METRO

Contest

- The MLS W.O.R.K.S. Community MVP contest ends July 13 and votes can be cast on the league's website.

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UNITED FURNITURE WAREHOUSE

Vancouver gelato master creates golden flavour

Creamy Maple Sensation. Bella Gelateria owner wins two gold medals from Firenze Gelato Festival

CHELSEA ALTICE
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Maple syrup got sweeter in Vancouver when James Coleridge brought home two gold medals from the world's largest gelato competition in Florence, Italy.

His Creamy Maple Sensation, a handmade gelato with salt-crusted pecans, beat out 30 contenders for the technical award at the Firenze Gelato Festival in May and earlier this week, he was told he also won the people's choice award.

"Winning the people's choice award is one of the greatest honours I've had in my whole life," said Coleridge.

"I expect technical judges to understand the complexities of what we do here, but to have 200,000 people, the Italians who live the traditional food and culture, vote for us.... I'm still speechless."

Coleridge is the owner of Vancouver shop Bella Gelateria on Burrard and Cordova streets, where all his inspirations come from local seasonal products.

"We change our flavours based on the day, on the weather," he said. "When it's cold out, we do more booze and chocolate flavours; when it's warm out, we do more fruit flavours and refreshing sorbettos.

"We may make a batch in the morning and sell out, never to be made again."

Coleridge received his training from the Carpigiani Gelato University in Italy and brought back the artisanal techniques of using slow, small-batch machinery — a first in North America.

James Coleridge of Bella Gelateria pulls out a fresh batch of Langley farms strawberry gelato from his shop on Cordova and Burrard. CHELSEA ALTICE/FOR METRO

Glitter vs. oil in VanDolls' first political foray

Placards and posters were not loud enough protest tools for the VanDolls against the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline.

The burlesque troupe takes to the Rio Theatre stage Saturday in Pipe This!, a satirical striptease meant to bring up environmental and political issues surrounding the proposed project.

"The Enbridge pipeline is a disaster waiting to happen," said VanDolls producer Shannon Waters. "It's a question of when and how bad — not if. We're hoping that it will bring out the people that are drawn to the issue but didn't know how to participate. And it will also put on a fun and entertaining face."

Waters said that the idea, in the making for six months, was not always unanimously supported within the troupe, with some members feeling that the event was too political for their glitzy routines to tackle.

"Burlesque is not your typical platform for protest, and committing all nine of us was difficult," she said. "We all stand in the same area politically, but there were different levels of feelings."

But now that there are other performers involved in the 15 pipeline-themed acts, Waters said everyone is having a fantastic experience and hopes their success will get more people talking about the project.

"When people think of activism, they think people are angry, but it doesn't have to be," she said. "Our show is not."

After selling out previous VanDolls shows, Waters hopes to do the same for Pipe This! and raise more than $10,000 towards local groups West Coast Environmental Law and the Dogwood Initiative.

Tickets will be available at the Rio Theatre door for a minimum donation of $20. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.

CHELSEA ALTICE/FOR METRO

The VanDolls lineup, from left, Malvina MasVino, Scarlet Delerium, Kitty Kitty Bang Bang, Bunny Meugens, Rufflesilkskin, Whatshername and Sherry Hymen. CONTRIBUTED/FRANKY PANKY

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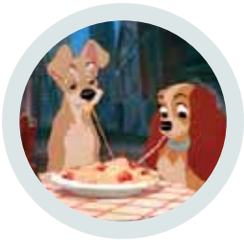
Pecking order

In honour of International Kissing Day, we plant six of the most sensuously significant lip smacks to grace the big screen—and all the juicy collateral cooties that go along with them — on you. **MIKE DOJC** For Metro

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937): You really can't get more romantic than the spell-breaking power of love's first kiss. Throw in Doc, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, Bashful, Sneezy, and Dopey, plus a Noah's Ark worth of cuddly woodland creatures looking all weepy-eyed before the prince's peck, and the anticipation is bases-loaded heart-thumping. Then Snow White awakens from her poisoned-apple coma and the crowd goes crazy as the heroine and her hero ride off into the sunset.



Lady and the Tramp (1955): After they each slurp down a strand from a shared plate of spaghetti, the restaurateur enhances the mood by serenading the star-crossed pooches with Bella Notte on his accordion. While lost in the melody, they find themselves munching on opposite ends of a long noodle. The brief snout-on-snout action is cut short by Lady's shyness, but then Tramp nuzzles a meatball toward her and puppy love twinkles in both their eyes.

Planet of the Apes (1968): "Doctor, I'd Like to kiss you goodbye," Taylor says. "All right ... but you're so damned ugly," replies Zira before allowing Charlton Heston to peck her on the lips. It's the last sweet interspecies moment in the sci-fi classic before the famous "damn you all to hell" denouement, when the astronaut sees the remnants of the Statue of Liberty while riding along the shoreline and comes to the stunning realization that he's not on an alien planet after all, but on a post-apocalyptic Earth.

Ghost (1990): The steamy potter's wheel scene with Patrick Swayze placing his hands over Demi Moore's clay-covered fingers and nibbling on her neck, while the Righteous Brothers' Unchained Melody played in the background, jump-started a glaze craze that is still with us over 20 years later. The scene has been paid homage to and parodied ad nauseum, most recently in an episode of NBC's Community, where a pottery teacher adopts a zero-Ghost-tolerance policy of both "ironic" and "sincere" re-enactments.

Spider-Man (2002): "You have a knack for saving my life. I think I have a superhero stalker," a rain-soaked Mary-Jane (Kirsten Dunst) teases before pulling away half of Spider-Man's (Tobey Maguire) mask to access his lips. The ensuing dangling, upside-down smooch inspired thousands of couples to try the move out on jungle gyms and other inversion apparatuses. Home-gamers recreating the tender Spidey moment, here's a tip: The horizontal version is a lot safer.

Twilight (2008): "Just stay very still ... don't move," Edward warns while leaning in. A breathy makeout session is always more exciting when there's a chance a vampire's hormones will go out of control and the affair will turn into a bloodletting. The chaste passion between Bella and her sensitive bloodsucker boyfriend (they wait four movies and until marriage before going all the way) stirred up an uproar in some circles with debates raging about whether they should condone or condemn the fictional relationship.

Nothing wrong with a little affection

New survey. Most Canadians say they're unfazed by PDA

LIA GRAINGER
saskatoon@metronews.ca

Are you a fan of the PDA? Friday is International Kissing Day, and a new survey from the match-making website Zoosk.com has found the vast majority of Canadians have no problems puckering up in public.

The history of the kiss

- **Prehistoric times.** Couples kiss to taste saliva and find a suitable mate.
- **1500 BC.** Vedic Sanskrit texts from India reference "drinking moisture of the lips."
- **300 AD.** The Kama Sutra contains an entire chapter on kissing.
- **0-500 AD.** The Romans, a kiss-crazy people, spread the practice across their empire.
- **1800s.** The hand kiss becomes popularized in England.
- **1872.** Charles Darwin hypothesizes kissing is an innate urge all humans share.

Of the more than 1,163 Canadians surveyed, a whopping 93 per cent confessed they were fine with public displays of affection. Women are ever-so-slightly more modest than their male counterparts: 51 per cent of the ladies who responded said that public kissing in moderation is fine, while 61 per cent of the fellas said anything goes.

"The high numbers of people that are OK with PDA is indicative of our easy-going tolerance and acceptance — qualities that are consummately Canadian," says Toronto etiquette expert Karen Cleveland. She says that attitudes towards kissing in public have softened over the years, but is quick to warn there is still such a thing as going too far.

"A good rule of thumb is to avoid doing anything you'd be embarrassed to do in front of your grandparents," says Cleveland. "That means no groping and no tongue."

Dating consultant Shannon Tebb says location matters. "If you're on a subway car or in a doctor's office — anywhere confined with other people — it's probably best to avoid big displays," says Tebb. "If you're on the street, it's more acceptable."

If you've decided to go for the public smooch, why not make your partner happy? According to Zoosk.com, most Canadian men prefer sensual kisses on the lips, while the majority of women like the so-called French kiss.

Those with female partners should be extra observant, as most women said being with a good kisser is important. But men were less concerned because their partners "may be better at other things." We'll let you ponder that one for yourselves.

We asked: What was your worst kiss?

"After a bag of nacho-cheese Doritos. Full-on tongue. That was terrible."
Rachel Fine, 27, master's student/bartender

"My first spin-the-bottle in Grade 7. I had never French kissed. He came at me tongue out." Melanie Spence, 28, unemployed

"Truth-or-dare in high school. It was one of those friends you just don't want to kiss."
Natisha Cohen, 27, instructor

"It involved a lot of teeth, which is never good."
Shane Adamczak, 29, performer

"In high school with this really dumb guy. I don't know why I was with him."
Natalie Bartlett, 27, registered nurse

"I've never had one. Kisses are great."
Evan Thompson, 49, philosophy teacher

Boy who grew hair for good cause endured months of bullying

Snip, snip and it's gone.

"Now that I got rid of my hair, there's no way they can make fun of me," said 10-year-old William Panter while getting about eight inches of hair cut off on Thursday.

He grew his hair for about 18 months, putting up with teasing and name-calling, until it was long enough to make a wig for someone with cancer.

His grandmother died from the disease in March 2011. Her death was very hard on him, but he realized what he could do to help someone. The hair, cut at Diann's Hair Salon in Orleans, Ont., which often does Cuts For Cancer fundraisers, will go to the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation.

His dad, Nik Panter, said the past year and a half of hair-growing hasn't been easy on his son.

"I've got a 10-year-old who's been openly called a f-g and gay," he said.

Kids of all ages called William those names because his hair was different, said Nik. William, an intelligent kid who grew up in a tolerant household, knows what those words mean but struggled to understand why they were supposed to hurt him.

An adult soccer coach, old enough to know better, would repeatedly refer to William as a girl, despite being fully aware he isn't one, said Nik.

"It's not too hard to figure out how a lot of these kids know how to call other people names," said Nik.

One of the names he got at school was "brownielocks," William said.

"I was at a new school and the main bully kept making fun of me," he said. That bully and some of the other students didn't know why he was growing out his hair, but he hopes they'll now regret what they said.

JESSICA SMITH/METRO IN OTTAWA

While Diann Laland cuts his hair, William Panter, 10, looks at one of the braids he's donating to be made into a wig for a cancer patient.
JESSICA SMITH/METRO IN OTTAWA

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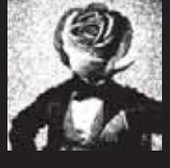

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Leaked emails reveal Italy's ties to Syria

WikiLeaks. Material is embarrassing to both Syria and the country's opponents: Assange

The first batch of 2.4 million emails from Syria being released by the whistle-blowing WikiLeaks reveals alleged high-level deals by an international arms and telecom supplier to equip the regime.

The 16-month uprising in Syria against the government of President Bashar Assad has killed at least 10,000 people, according to United Nations figures.

Finmeccanica "sold to Syria ... the Tetra system, a communications network that allows conversations and transmission of data," L'Espresso newspaper reported Thursday. Finmeccanica is 30 per cent owned by the Italian government.

Whistle-blower

"It helps us not merely to criticize one group or another, but to understand their interests, actions and thoughts. It is only through understanding this conflict that we can hope to resolve it."

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange in a statement on the group's website.

The $50 million system allowed interception-proof encrypted communications that could connect to any vehicle, including helicopters.

Part of the export, the report said, "must be authorized by the Italian government." The contract, it said, dates back to 2008 and reveals "the relationship with the Italian parent (company) for the Syrian program has been intense and continuous."

Finmeccanica, a supplier to the U.S. defence department, also sold its technology to the Iranian Interior Ministry in 2007, the Spanish publication Publico.ex reported.

The Finmeccanica story is the first of many to come "over the months and years" from the email cache, WikiLeaks' Sarah Harrison told journalists at London's Frontline Club Thursday.

The WikiLeaks database comprises 2,434,899 emails from 680 domains, the site said. There are 678,752 different email addresses that have sent emails and 1,082,447 different recipients.

Seven news organizations that partnered with WikiLeaks began publishing stories based on data they analyzed, including L'Espresso, Publico and Al-Akhbar. The Finmeccanica story dominated their accounts.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

al-Qaida. Insurgents making presence felt in Syria, says Iraqi foreign minister

Iraq asserted Thursday that al-Qaida insurgents are streaming out of the country to carry out attacks in Syria, an ominous development as the Syrian conflict inflames an already hostile region.

Extremists have been making inroads as the 16-month-old uprising against President Bashar Assad grinds on, bringing a dangerous new element to the forces fighting to topple the regime.

The militants are taking advantage of the chaos and violence gripping Syria, which the head of the country's UN observer mission said Thursday had reached "unprecedented levels."

Seeking safety

200,000

More than 200,000 Syrians have so far fled the country overland, seeking refuge in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said authorities are worried that extremists could gain another foothold in Syria, posing a new threat to the stability of the entire region.

"We have solid information and intelligence that members of al-Qaida's terrorist network have gone to Syria," he told reporters in Baghdad.

It's a turnaround from the height of the Iraqi war six years ago, when weapons and fighters would cross from Syria to aid fellow Sunnis in Iraq.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Workers unload debris from crashed Air France flight AF447 off a Brazilian ship in the port of Recife, northeast of Brazil., in 2009. ERALDO PERES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Air France. Crash investigation cites faulty equipment, pilot mistakes

A combination of faulty sensors and mistakes by inadequately trained pilots caused an Air France jet to plunge into the Atlantic Ocean in 2009, killing all 228 people aboard in the airline's deadliest crash ever, French investigators with the Bureau for Investigations and Analysis said Thursday.

Airbus, the plane's manufacturer, said in a statement that it is working to improve speed sensors and making other efforts to avoid future accidents.

Air France insisted the pilots "acted in line with the information provided by the cockpit instruments and systems ... The reading of the various data did not enable them to apply the appropriate action."

The bureau's analysis lists a combination of "human and technical factors" behind the crash. The plane flying from Rio de Janeiro to Paris slammed into the sea during a nighttime thunderstorm on June 1, 2009.

Ice crystals that blocked the pitot tubes were the "unleashing event" that set off the plane's troubles, chief investigator Alain Bouillard said. The plane's autopilot shut off and the co-pilots had to fly manually, while a succession of alarms were going off. The captain was on a rest break.

In one fatal decision, the report says, one of the co-pilots nosed the Airbus A330 upward during a stall — instead of downward, as he should have — because of false data from sensors about the plane's position. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argentina

Junta dictator gets 50 years in prison

Former Argentine dictator Jorge Rafael Videla was convicted and sentenced to 50 years Thursday for executing a systematic plan to steal babies from prisoners who were kidnapped, tortured and killed during the military junta's war on leftist dissenters three decades ago.

Videla and the rest of the junta were determined to remove any trace of the armed leftist guerrilla movement that they felt threatened the country's future. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fourth of July tragedy

Yacht operator blames wave

The man operating a yacht full of fireworks-watchers that capsized on American Independence Day, killing three children, said Thursday the vessel was slammed by a wave.

Sal Aurelino told the News12 Long Island TV station that he was taking the Candi One home when he saw two lightning bolts before "a wave got us."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bloody Sunday

Northern Ireland police chief to open investigation

Northern Ireland's police commander announced Thursday that his force intends to open a criminal investigation into whether British soldiers committed murder during the Bloody Sunday massacre 40 years ago — but lacks the staff and funding necessary and can't say when it would start.

A 2010 probe determined civilians were targeted. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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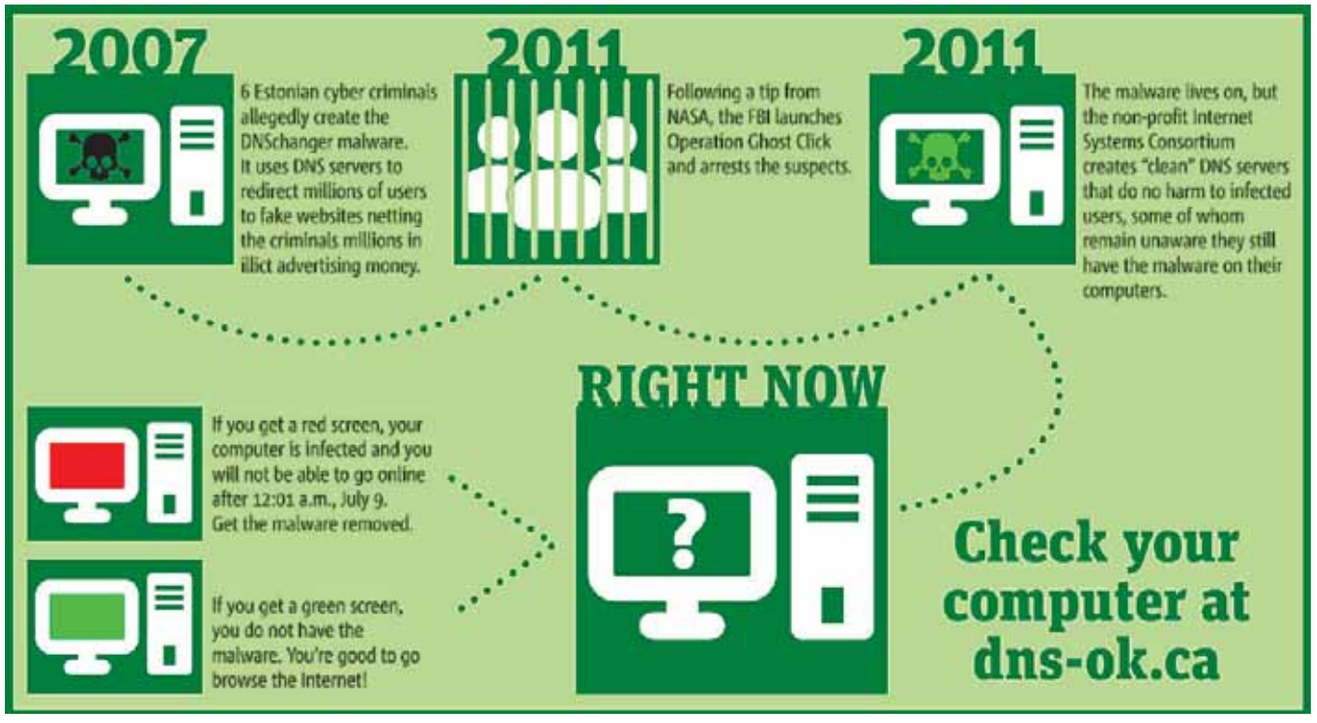
PC check.
Malware could knock you offline

The warnings about the problem have been splashed across Facebook and Google. Internet service providers have sent notices, and the FBI set up a special website. But hundreds of thousands of people may still lose their Internet service Monday unless they do a check of their computers for malware that could have taken over their machines more than a year ago.

Despite repeated alerts, the number of computers that are likely infected is more than 277,000 worldwide, down from about 360,000 in April.

Users whose computers are still infected Monday will lose their ability to go online, and they will have to call their service providers for help deleting the malware and reconnecting to the Internet. THE CANADIAN PRESS


2007
6 Estonian cyber criminals allegedly create the DNSchanger malware. It uses DNS servers to redirect millions of users to fake websites netting the criminals millions in illict advertising money.
2011
Following a tip from NASA, the FBI launches Operation Ghost Click and arrests the suspects.
2011
The malware lives on, but the non-profit Internet Systems Consortium creates "clean" DNS servers that do no harm to infected users, some of whom remain unaware they still have the malware on their computers.
RIGHT NOW
If you get a red screen, your computer is infected and you will not be able to go online after 12:01 a.m., July 9. Get the malware removed.
If you get a green screen, you do not have the malware. You're good to go browse the Internet!
Check your computer at dns-ok.ca

Scientists: Volcanic eruptions can help climate

An international team led by University of Saskatchewan researchers says small volcanic eruptions could cool the climate.

The team says aerosols — minute droplets of sulphuric acid — from relatively small volcanic bursts can be shot into the high atmosphere by weather systems such as monsoons.

"If an aerosol is in the lower atmosphere, it's affected by the weather and it precipitates back down right away," lead researcher Adam Bourassa, who is with the university's Institute of Space and Atmospheric Studies, said in a news release Thursday.

"Once it reaches the stratosphere, it can persist for years, and with that kind of a sustained lifetime, it can really have a lasting effect."

The result, he said, is the scattering of incoming sunlight and the potential to cool the Earth's surface.

Bourassa said that until now it was thought that a massive eruption was needed to inject aerosols past the troposphere, the turbulent atmospheric layer closest to the Earth, into the stable layers of the stratosphere higher up.

Researchers noted that the massive eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in 1991 temporarily dropped temperatures by half a degree Celsius worldwide.

The team, including scientists from Rutgers University in New Jersey, the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Colorado and the University of Wyoming, looked at the June 2011 eruption of the Nabro volcano in northeast Africa.

The researchers found that wind carried the volcanic gas and the droplets of sulphuric acid into the path of the annual Asian summer monsoon.

Dust from the Nabro volcano, being slightly heavier, settled out. But the monsoon lofted volcanic gas and the lighter liquid droplets into the stratosphere where they were detected by the Canadian Space Agency's OSIRIS instrument aboard. The findings from the research appear in Friday's issue of the journal Science. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scientists know believe that small volcanic eruptions, like this one at the Popocatepetl volcano in the Mexican state of Puebla last May, may help to cool the climate. CHEMA ALVAREZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Long wait is over as giant panda born at Tokyo zoo

Panda-monium. Baby panda becomes an instant star as major TV networks in Japan flash news of birth

Seven-year-old female giant panda Shin Shin eats lunch at Ueno Zoo in Tokyo in this June 27 photo. The zoo said a panda was born Thursday to Shin Shin, brought to Japan from China just before the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

A panda has been born at a Tokyo zoo for the first time in 24 years.

Tokyo's popular Ueno Zoo says the panda was born Thursday to Shin Shin. The seven-year-old mother was brought to Japan from China just before Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami last year.

The baby's gender was not immediately known. Zoo officials say the pair appear to be in good health but will be monitored around the clock.

It was the first panda born at the zoo since 1988 and was conceived naturally.

Giant pandas have a low birth rate and artificial insemination has been common in captive breeding programs.

The birth of Shin Shin's baby was much anticipated in Japan, and the news was flashed on major television networks Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keeping his cool

A man uses a water hose to cool his face in Warsaw on Thursday, as temperatures hovered around 30 C in the Polish capital.

CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calgary Stampede

Ad calls for ban on calf roping

The Vancouver Humane Society has launched a campaign against calf roping at the Calgary Stampede with an ad depicting a diaper-clad baby and a young calf side by side.

Under the photos are the words "Just three months old — Would you abuse a baby to entertain a crowd?" The average age of a calf used in calf roping is three to four months old.

The humane society is calling for a ban on calf roping at all rodeos across Canada and wants the Calgary Stampede to show the way by dropping the event. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Whaling commission

S. Korea wants to hunt whales

South Korea has told the International Whaling Commission it plans to hunt whales for research purposes for the first time. Australia and New Zealand expressed concerns South Korea may use the hunts as a cover for commercial whaling.

South Korean officials say they haven't determined what to do with the whale meat.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Premature celebration

Yachts are illuminated in the foreground as a malfunction causes an entire Fourth of July fireworks show to go off all at once over San Diego Bay near Coronado Island in San Diego, late Wednesday. The Coast Guard says the mishap occurred minutes before the scheduled opening of the Big Bay Boom show. More than 500,000 people witnessed the short-lived spectacle. No injuries were reported. Watch the video at metronews.ca. BEN BALLER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ottawa

Mother, son plead guilty to incest

A 53-year-old woman and her 35-year-old son pleaded guilty to incest in an Ottawa court Thursday. The two were seen having intercourse by a family member — the woman's daughter and man's older sister — in May 2010, according to Crown lawyer Caroline Thibault. They received suspended sentences, the mother 24 months and the son 12 months.

JESSICA SMITH/METRO IN OTTAWA

Taiwan

Judge uses Google map in case ruling

A Taiwanese judge has used a Google Street View map showing an unleashed dog to hold a man responsible for his neighbour's bicycle accident. The defendant in the case denied being the dog's owner and causing injury through negligence.

The victim testified he became scared after the dog began pursuing him while he was riding his bicycle last July. He said he fell off the bike and injured his forehead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canada not helping jailed citizen in China: Wife

Dissent. Refugee who spoke against human rights abuses in China serving life in prison

The wife of a Canadian citizen who is serving a life sentence in China for speaking out on behalf of the country's Uighur minority says the Canadian government has all but forgotten about him.

Kamila Telendibaeva says her husband, Huseyin Celil, a refugee from China's troubled Xinjiang region, has been punished because he spoke out about the democratic and religious rights for the Muslim minority group.

Human rights activists say Beijing considers anyone in the Uighur community who attempts to promote their culture or religious values, or who speaks out about greater autonomy for the Uighur people, a terrorist.

Quoted

"They have not been willing to budge off that position although we continue to press them."

Dian Ablonczy, junior foreign affairs minister, on the Chinese government's refusal to recognize Canada's right to consular access to an imprisoned citizen

Celil escaped from China in 1994 when the terrorism charges first surfaced.

In 2006, while visiting his wife's family in Uzbekistan, Celil was detained by Uzbek police and deported to China without the consent of the Canadian government.

Members of the Uighur community gathered outside the Chinese consulate in Toronto on Thursday to mark the third anniversary of the deadly 2009 riots. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kamila Talendibaeva, wife of Huseyin Celil, a Canadian citizen being held in a prison and serving a life sentence in a Chinese prison, holds a news conference in this file photo. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

No. Korean-reunification activist arrested after three-month stint in North

A South Korean activist was arrested as soon as he set foot on home soil Thursday, resisting police in a stunt of defiance after an unapproved, three-month stay in the North.

Turning around to face crowds of cheering North Koreans before stepping over the line, No Su-hui raised his arms and shouted "Long live reunification," a white unified-Korea flag in his right hand and a bouquet of flowers in his left. Behind him on the South Korean side, soldiers stood in taekwondo poses, their eyes concealed behind dark sunglasses.

The stunt by No, 68, was designed to draw attention to the division of the Korean Peninsula. He had gone to Pyongyang from China in March even though South Koreans are prohibited from travelling to North Korea without government approval.

"The conservative forces are saying they will put me on trial, but I will judge them," No said. "Please watch and see what will happen."

No, who is vice-chairman of South Korea's Pan-Alliance for Korea's Reunification, was dressed in a grey suit and white tie, with a pin of unified Korea on his jacket. His pointed decision to cross back through the truce village of Panmunjom was a highly symbolic move to draw attention to his cause. Most tourists must enter and exit North Korea via China.

No, who went to Pyongyang to pay his respects to Kim on the 100th day after his death, visited major tourist sites and met with North Korean officials during his visit, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Souring ties

The Korean Peninsula has remained in a state of war since a truce ended three years of fighting in 1953.

- After a decade of warming ties, relations have soured since a new conservative administration took office in Seoul in 2008.

An effigy of pro-Korean-reunification activist No Su-hui is burned by protesters near the border village of Panmunjom, in Paju, South Korea, on Thursday. LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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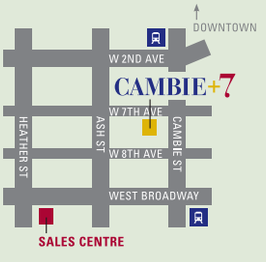

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Airlines

WestJet reports growth in June

WestJet Airlines said its flights had fewer empty seats in June compared with a year ago as the airline also increased capacity.

Calgary-based WestJet reported Thursday a load factor — the proportion of seats filled on its flights — of 79 per cent for June, up from 75.7 per cent in June 2011 when Air Canada suffered a brief strike by its customer-service agents. The increase came as passenger traffic climbed 6.7 per cent from the same time last year, while capacity increased 2.3 per cent.

"Advanced bookings for July and August remain strong," WestJet CEO Gregg Saretsky said in a statement.

Meanwhile, regional carrier Porter Airlines reported a load factor of 62 per cent for June, down from 64.6 per cent a year ago. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Telecom

Cabinet upholds competition between phone companies

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's cabinet has upheld a CRTC ruling that allows big telephone companies to compete against smaller ones in rural areas.

Smaller phone companies from Ontario, Quebec and B.C. petitioned cabinet to overturn a May 2011 decision by Canada's telecom regulator to allow competition in some rural and remote parts of the country. Those areas had been protected from competition by regulations that allowed for only one service provider.

Those representing small independent telephone companies had argued the CRTC ruling meant the big companies would be free to offer telephone services to homes passed by their cable networks, while ignoring potential customers in remote areas. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Appetite to hire down since 2011

Survey. 40 per cent of hiring managers planning to bring on new full-timers in second half of 2012

A new survey suggests fewer Canadian employers expect to add more permanent full-time jobs in the second half of 2012 than they did in last year's poll.

The Harris Interactive survey found that 40 per cent of hiring managers said they were planning to hire new permanent, full-time employees by the end of the year compared with 43 per cent in the second half of 2011.

The countrywide survey was conducted between May 14 and June 4 on behalf of website CareerBuilder Canada.

Results from among 292 hiring managers and human resource professional contacted found that in addition to the 40 per cent who expected to add high full-time employees, 22 per cent planned to add part-time workers and 26 per cent contract or temporary employees. Some 17 per cent said they would take on interns.

"While employers are more confident about their revenue prospects and expansion opportunities in the back half of 2012, they remain watchful of the global economic recovery and market dynamics in their own backyard," said Brent Rasmussen, president of CareerBuilder North America. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Tim Hortons. Coffee chain to introduce free Wi-Fi

Double-double addicts will soon have another reason to stop into one of the thousands of Tim Hortons outlets across the country.

The coffee-and-doughnut chain announced Thursday that it is working to roll out free wireless Internet to more than 2,000 locations. It expects 90 per cent of its so-called "traditional" outlets across Canada will offer free Wi-Fi by September.

The plan does not include its non-traditional outlets, including kiosks, gas stations and hospital locations.

The service is being provided through a partnership with Bell.

Tim Hortons joins other chains such as McDonald's, Second Cup and Starbucks that already offer free Wi-Fi access at many of its locations. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

A server pours a cup of coffee at the Tim Hortons' in Toronto on Thursday.
CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Economy slowing sales

A shopper fills her cart at a Target store in Chicago on Thursday. Shoppers, worried about jobs and the overall economy, pulled back on spending in June, resulting in tepid sales for many retailers. Many merchants reported disappointing sales for last month.
M. SPENCER GREEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MARRIAGE: IMPOSSIBLE

THE LIST
Neil Morton
Metro

1 **Tom Cruise at 50:** It's been only seven years since the Scientologist jumped on Oprah's couch to profess his love for Katie Holmes. Now with a pending divorce (Katie apparently wants to protect her daughter Suri from being indoctrinated into Scientology), things are not looking up for Cruise, who turned 50 this week. Eyes Wide Shut.

2 **Anderson Cooper:** The CNN anchor came out of the closet this week. "The fact is, I'm gay, always have been, always will be, and I couldn't be any more happy, comfortable with myself, and proud," he wrote in an email published on his friend Andrew Sullivan's blog. Cooper decided he was doing more harm than good by not coming out. Kudos.

3 **Soccer:** Spain staked its claim as being one of the best teams in world football history by winning a record third straight major title, routing Italy 4-0 in the Euro 2012 final. What Italy did show is they have one of the more dynamic and stylin' young strikers in football — Mario (Super Mario) Balotelli.

4 **Good Afternoon America:** Good Morning America is getting a nine-week summer afternoon spinoff series in Good Afternoon America. It launches on Monday, and if ratings go well and the show continues in the fall, could we see a Good Night America spinoff? Nah, that name is too ominous.

5 **Steve Nash:** Canada was having Steve Nash fever, with basketball fans across the country salivating at the prospect of the star signing with the Toronto Raptors. But it was all just a Hollywood dream with no happy ending, as Nash instead went to the L.A. Lakers where he will play with Kobe. And win a title.

6 **Carly Rae Jepsen:** The pop sensation came to Peterborough, Ont., Wednesday, performing to one of the largest crowds in the history of the city's Little Lake Musicfest. She had the fans in the palm of her hands, finishing the night with them singing along to her summer hit Call Me Maybe. I was there with my daughters, and, shh, was singing right along.

7 **London calling:** Jessica Zelinka announced herself as possibly Canada's best female athlete, winning the 100-metre hurdles shortly after breaking her own Canadian record in the heptathlon. She tweeted about her next step: a berth in the Summer Olympics. "@JessicaZelinka: Crashing after riding the high all week. Thanks for sharing this crazy journey with me. London here we come!!"

8 **Chris Brown:** The bad rapper wannabe released a new verse on a remixed track, I Don't Like, ripping his adversary Drake for their nightclub brawl in June. Brown slams Drake for "throwin' bottles" while he himself is "throwin' models." This stupid boy fight over Rihanna has evolved into the dumbest hip hop beef in music history.

9 **Jose Bautista:** The slugger earned his third straight all-star berth when Major League Baseball announced its starting lineups for next week's game in Kansas City. Bautista, who set a Blue Jays record with 14 homers in the month of June, is the silver lining on a Jays team that is going downhill fast with all their injured starting pitchers.

10 **Doug Pitt:** Brad Pitt's little brother Doug stars in a rather quirky commercial that went viral for Virgin Mobile Australia. In the ad, titled, 'Meet Doug Pitt, the second most famous Pitt in his family,' we're given a tour by Doug inside his middle-class home and lifestyle. No, Angelina Jolie's brother James Haven does not make a cameo.

11 **Train:** Train is on a big U.S. tour but is making two Canadian stops next week, one in Montreal (July 10) and the next night in Toronto. So if you're proposing to your girlfriend this summer, the perfect time to do it is with a flash mob at their concert when they're singing Marry Me.

12 **Detroit zombie theme park:** A Detroit company, Z World Detroit LLC., wants to turn one of the city's abandoned neighbourhoods into a massive zombie theme park. Now there's sure to be a lot of political red tape, but it's definitely one of the more creative solutions proposed to helping turn Detroit's economy around — and a radical rethinking of urban redevelopment.

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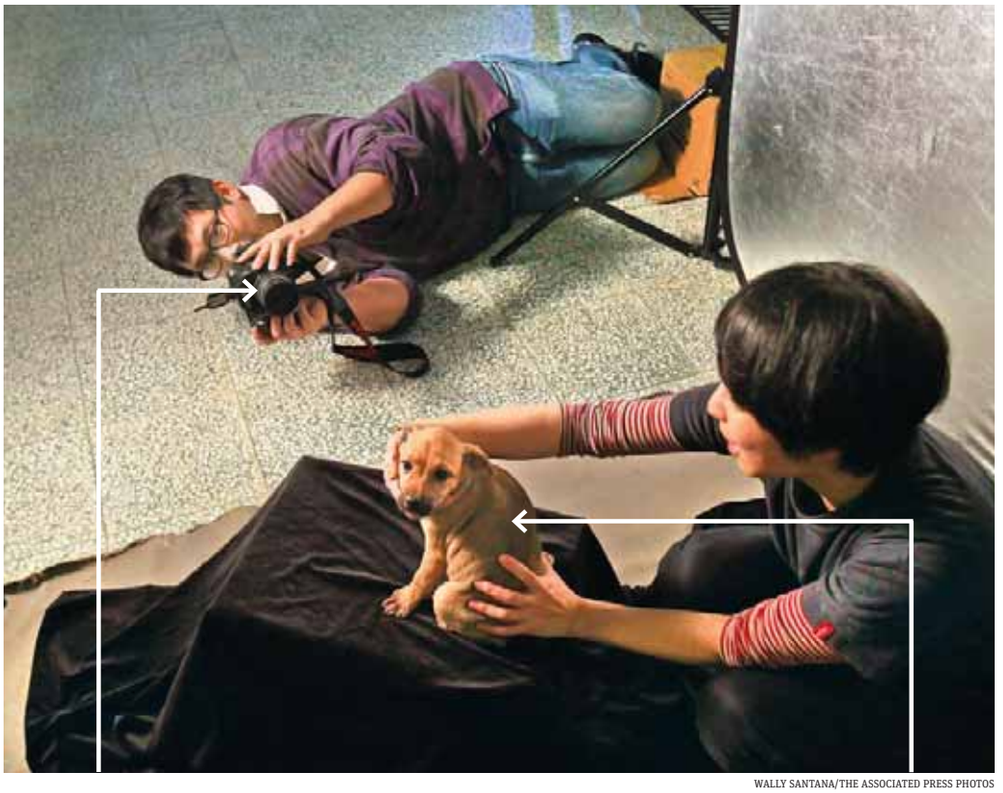
Last shot for tragic pound puppy



WALLY SANTANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Canine portraits

Raising awareness for euthanized dogs

Taiwanese photographer Tou Chih-kang tries to make a portrait of a puppy in the final moments of its life before being put down at a shelter in Taoyuan, northern Taiwan, in this April photo.

Chih-kang has been visiting dog shelters for two years now, making human-like portraits that give a sense of dignity and esteem to some 400 canines, in hopes of educating the public on the proper care of pets.

Activists say that some 70 per cent of dogs in Taiwanese shelters are killed after a 12-day waiting period.

The pictures are Tou Chih-kang's way of trying to encourage responsibility among Taiwanese dog owners, who abandon their pets when they tire of them.

His photos will be exhibited in a full-scale show in southern Taiwan next month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A puppy is pictured at a government-run shelter in Taoyuan, northern Taiwan.

Doomed shelter pups

80,000

This year Taiwanese authorities will kill an estimated 80,000 stray dogs at 38 pounds scattered throughout the island.

Metropolitan Panel

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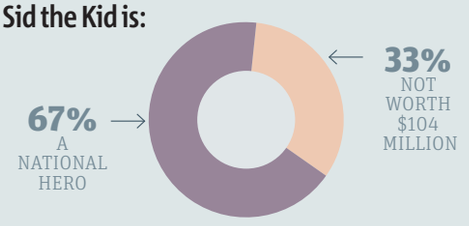

Twitter

@aradvak: looking forward to sunny Vancouver weekend! #sun #seawall #patioliving

@findapropertyca: Proposed extension to Vancouver's seawall from Kitsilano to Jericho. What a great idea....

@JeremyBoard: I think a seawall link from Kits to Jericho Beach will be a wonderful opportunity for Point Grey Rd home owners to showcase their homes

@kambctl: Yes expand the seawall. There is a private donor that will be putting up the $$ so what's the hold up?

@JillSlattery: Expanding the seawall to Jericho? What about those poor millionaires with practically private beachfront homes? What will happen to them?!

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Can the leads of Savages hold their own with the scenery? HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Stone's Savages — flamboyant and fun

Standard drug flick. Savages ticks each requisite off the list — a California cutie, a threesome and Benicio Del Toro as a Mexican bad guy

Richard: Mark, I knew I was in for an over-the-top Oliver Stone movie from Savages' opening minutes. The "wargasm" reference was my first clue and by the time Benicio Del Toro literally twirled his moustache like a pantomime baddie, I knew this wasn't the same director who gave us W and World Trade Center, this is Stone in Natural Born Killers mode. It's wild, but I found it more flamboyant than fun. You?

Mark: Well, Richard, let's see ... guns, drugs, threesomes; sounds like hanging out with Sam Kinison in the '80s. Actually, I think this is Stone's best picture since Reagan was President. He's working viscerally here and you can feel everything: the coastal languors of Laguna Beach, the scuzziness of Mexican border towns, Blake Lively's silken suntan. For a violent popcorn movie, I found it pretty sensual. Did you think the leads held their own with the scenery?

RC: It's definitely a good-looking movie from the stars to the scenery, but I thought the cast was really interesting as well as pretty. Johnson and Kitsch are good and evil, flip sides of the same coin, Lively isn't as sprightly as her name might suggest, but she does do damaged quite well. I also enjoyed Travolta, Hayek and Del Toro chewing the scenery but I felt it hard to care about any of them. They're all rather despicable, and I found myself hoping they'd all end up in a Mexican standoff.

Synopsis

Aaron Johnson and Taylor Kitsch are Ben and Chon, entrepreneurs, drug dealers and two thirds of a love triangle with California cutie Ophelia (Blake Lively). They sell a potent strain of legal medical grade marijuana but also siphon off some for illicit practice and profit, which earns the attention of a Mexican Baja drug Cartel run by Elena (Salma Hayek). She'll do anything to create a "joint" venture, including kidnapping their shared paramour.

- Richard: ●●○○○
- Mark: ●●●●○

MB: Well, it is a drug movie after all, so you know there will be double-crosses galore. I think you're supposed to care about the Blake Lively character, as the innocent of the bunch, but she's a bit vapid to really identify with. Del Toro makes, as usual, a great baddie, although Travolta stole the show for me with his corrupt DEA agent. But you'd think for a guy on the take, he'd have a much better haircut.

RC: Ha! It's a haircut almost as bad as the ending. No spoilers ... but it felt like a cheat.

MB: The ending wants to have its pot brownie and eat it too, but I appreciated the attempt to play with the narrative and our expectations. For me, it was flamboyant *and* fun.

2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Spy style

If there's one thing James Bond has taught us, it's that behind every great spy is a great tailor. A new exhibition at London's Barbican Centre explores the style of the suave secret agent, displaying costumes, props, set pieces and design drawings from half a century of 007 films. Assembled with help from the films' producers, the exhibition includes the spy's tuxedos, Bond girl ballgowns and villains' vestments, as well as a selection of props, gadgets and sketches of the films' exotic sets. It pays tribute to the British, European and American craftspeople and designers who have created the look of the quintessentially British icon. "Designing 007" opens Friday and runs to Sept. 5. It will then tour internationally, opening at the TIFF Bell Lightbox in Toronto in October.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Amazing Spider-Man game stumbles, while Lego Batman delights

Comedy

To Rome with Love

Director. Woody Allen

Stars. Woody Allen, Penelope Cruz, Alec Baldwin

To Rome with Love is well-meaning, but feels like something Woody Allen would have written 40 years ago. It's an episodic screwball comedy with loads of characters, identity mix-ups and the comic's trademarked highbrow references — will today's audience get a Howard Roark joke? It has the same kind of farcical feel and references of his earlier work — look for older men paired with younger women, anxiety and discussions on foreign film — but written decades ago it might have been funnier.

RICHARD CROUSE

This summer can be summed up in two words: The Avengers

Box office. Fickle fair-weather audiences agree on the Marvel Comics mashup, which accounts for one-third of summer revenues

The audiences are proving far more unpredictable than the movies Hollywood has created to pack them into theatres this summer.

Studios have released a familiar assortment of action tales, family flicks and star-driven comedies since the summer-blockbuster season began in early May. Yet while overall business has been solid, fans have been choosier than usual, spending a fortune on one superhero sensation, kicking in for a handful of midline hits and generally bypassing everything else.

Movies featuring box-office heavyweights Johnny Depp (Dark Shadows), Tom Cruise (Rock of Ages) and Adam Sandler (That's My Boy) fell flat, as did the action spectacle Battleship.

Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones pulled in fair crowds for Men in Black 3, though the action comedy played to a smaller audience than its predecessors. The animated tales Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted and Brave joined the action adventures Snow White & the Huntsman and Prometheus as $100 million hits.

But nearing its midpoint, a summer that looked like an easy record-breaker at the start really can be summed up in two words: The Avengers.

With $600 million domestically, the Marvel Comics superhero mashup accounts for a third of Hollywood's summer revenues, taking in more than the rest of the season's top-five movies combined.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Avengers has raked in $600 million domestically. HANDOUT

"IT'S THE BEST SPIDER-MAN YET.
A BRILLIANT REIMAGINING
OF AN EPIC FRANCHISE.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT AGAIN."
MARLOW STERN
Newsweek
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS A MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT/LAURA ZISKIN/AVI ARAD/MATT TOLMACH PRODUCTION "THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN" ANDREW GARFIELD EMMA STONE RHYS IFANS DENIS LEARY CAMPBELL SCOTT IRRFAN KHAN WITH MARTIN SHEEN AND SALLY FIELD MUSIC BY JAMES HORNER STORY BY STAN LEE KEVIN FEIGE MICHAEL GRILLO BASED ON THE CHARACTER CREATED BY STAN LEE AND STEVE DITKO SCREENPLAY BY JAMES VANDERBILT STORY BY JAMES VANDERBILT AND ALVIN SARGENT AND STEVE KLOVES PRODUCED BY LAURA ZISKIN AVI ARAD MATT TOLMACH DIRECTED BY MARC WEBB
Score Album on Sony Classical
MARVEL
PG VIOLENCE
TheAmazingSpider-Man.ca
3D
COLUMBIA PICTURES
IN 3D, real D 3D AND IMAX 3D
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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JULY 6 TO THURS., JULY 12. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Vancouver

Denman Cinemas
1779 Comox

The Cabin in the Woods (18A) Fri-Thu 9:10 Hysteria (14A) Fri-Thu 2
Marley (PG) Fri-Thu 4:10
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Sat-Sun 12
Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (PG) Fri-Thu 7
Your Sister's Sister (14A) Fri 12 Mon-Wed 12

Dunbar Theatre
4555 Dunbar Street

The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-7-9:50

Fifth Avenue Cinemas
2110 Burrard Street

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-6:55-9:25
The Intouchables (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-6:45-9:15 Moonrise Kingdom (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:05-9:05
Take This Waltz (14A) Fri-Tue 1-3:45-7:25-9:45 Wed 1-3:45-9:45 Thu 1-3:45-7:25-9:45
To Rome With Love (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:15-9:35

Granville
855 Granville St.

Cosmopolis (14A) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 3:55-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:10
The Dictator (14A) Fri 6:40-9:05 Sat-Sun 4:15-6:40-9:05 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:25
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 4-8 Mon-Thu 8 Rock of Ages (PG) Fri 6:35-9:15 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:15
Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (PG) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:20-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:45-8
What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG) Fri 6:55-9:20 Sat-Sun 4:10-6:55-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:05
Where Do We Go Now? (PG) Sat-Sun 4:05-6:35-9:15
The Woman in the Fifth (PG) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 4:25-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:20

Pacific Cinémathèque
1131 Howe Street

The 39 Steps (STC) Sun 6:30 Tue 8:15
Alfred Hitchcock Film Festival (STC) Fri 9 Sun 8:10 Tue 6:30 Thu 6:30
The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant (STC) Wed 6:30
Fear Eats the Soul (STC) Fri 8:45
Fox and His Friends (STC) Mon 6:30 Wed 8:50
Love Is Colder Than Death (STC) Mon 8:50 The Marriage of Maria Braun (STC) Fri 6:30 No Films Showing Today (STC) Sat Sabotage (STC) Thu 8:10
Vertigo (G) Fri 6:30

Park Theatre
3440 Cambie Street

The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:50

Ridge Theatre
3131 Arbutus Street

Ted (14A) Fri 4-7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:30

Rio on Broadway
1660 E. Broadway

No Films Showing Today (STC) Sat-Sun Thu
Rock of Ages (PG) Fri 6:40-9 Mon-Wed 7-9:30
The Suicide Club (STC) Fri 11

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, 900 Burrard St.,

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Fri-Thu 1:30-4:40-7:50-11 Brave (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:15-4:50
Brave 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 3:50-7:10-10:20
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri-Sat 12-2:30-5-7:35-10:10 Sun 2:40-5-7:35-10:10 Mon-Tue 12-2:30-5-7:35-10:10 Wed 12-2:30-10:10 Thu 12-2:30-5-7:35-10:10
Peter Gabriel Secret World Live: One Night Only (STC) Wed 7:30
Prometheus 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 2:10-5:10-8-11
Ted (14A) Fri 12:20-3-5:35-7:30-8:10-10:05-10:45 Sat 11:45-3-5:35-7:30-8:10-10:05-10:45 Sun-Thu 12:20-3-5:35-7:30-8:10-10:05-10:45
Wimbledon 2012 3D: Men's Final (STC) Sun 6

Vancity Theatre
Vancouver International Film Centre, 1181 Seymour Street

Beyond the Black Rainbow (STC) Fri-Sun 8:30 Tue-Thu 8:30
Coast Modern (STC) Fri-Sun 6:45 Mon-Thu 7 Tommy (STC) Mon 8:30

Vancouver Aquarium 4D Experience Theatre
845 Avison Way

Pole To Pole 4-D Experience (STC) Fri-Thu 10:15-10:45-11:15-11:45-12:15-12:45-1:15-1:45-2:15-2:45-3:15-3:45-4:15-4:45-5:15-5:45-6:15

North Shore

Esplanade 6
200 West Esplanade

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35
Brave (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-7:10
Brave 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30-6:45-9:20
Katy Perry: Part of Me (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:40-7:20-9:45
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:15-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 12:35-3:15-7-9:40
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-4-8
People Like Us (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:20-6:30-9:10

Park & Tilford
333 Brooksbank Ave.

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Wed 12:20-3:30-6:50-10 Thu 4:10-7:20-10:30
Star & Strollers Screening, Thu 1
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Thu 12:20-3:30-6:50-10
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:40
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 12:40
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:55-5:20-7:35-10:10
Prometheus (14A) Fri-Thu 9:55
Savages (18A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-7-10:10
Ted (14A) Fri-Sat 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:25 Sun 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:25 Mon-Thu 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:25

Richmond

SilverCity Riverport
14211 Entertainment Way

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:50-5:25-8:05-10:50
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Wed 12-12:30-3:10-3:40-6:20-6:50-9:30-10 Thu 12-3:10-3:55-6:20-6:50-9:30-10 Star & Strollers Screening, Thu 1
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:40-7:50-11
The Amazing Spider-Man: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:25
Brave (G) Fri 12:45-3:15-5:40 Sat 1-3:15-5:40 Sun-Thu 12:45-3:15-5:40
Brave 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:15
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 12:45
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Thu 3:10-5:35-8-10:25
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:40
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:10-7:25-10:45
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri-Thu 2:30-5:05-7:50-10:35
People Like Us (PG) Fri-Thu 2:15-5-7:45-10:30
Prometheus 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 2:05-5-7:55-10:45
Rock of Ages (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:40-7:35-10:40
Savages (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Thu 1:55-4:50-7:40-10:50
The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (G) Sat 11
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:15-11
That's My Boy (14A) Fri-Thu 8:10-10:55

Burnaby

Dolphin Cinemas
4555 E. Hastings St.

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-6:45-9:30
Brave (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:40-4:50-7-9:10

SilverCity Metropolis
4700 Kingsway Ave.

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-6:50-10
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:40-7:50-11
Brave (G) Fri-Thu 12:35
Brave 3D (G) Fri-Thu 3-5:30-8:10-10:40
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5:10-7:40-10:15
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 12:15
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:35-5:05-7:25-9:55
Magic Mike (14A) Fri 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Sat 11:10-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Sun-Thu 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:40
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Sat 12:25-3:45-7:10-10:25 Sun 3:45-7:10-10:25 Mon-Thu 12:25-3:45-7:10-10:25
Prometheus (14A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:40-7:35-10:35 Savages (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (G) Sat 11
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:15-10:55

Station Square
220-6200 McKay Ave.

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) Fri 4:10-7:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-9:45
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri 3:55-6:55-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:55-6:55-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:55-6:55-9:55
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri 3:35-6:35-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:35-6:35-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:35-9:20
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri 3:30-6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri 3:45-6:45-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:45-9:25
People Like Us (PG) Fri 4:05-7:05-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:05-9:40 Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri 4-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:45

New West/ Coquitlam

SilverCity Coquitlam
170 Schoolhouse Street

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:50-5:25-8:10
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Tue 12:30-1-3:40-4:10-6:50-7:20-10-10:30 Wed 12:30-3:40-4:10-6:50-7:20-10-10:30 Thu 12:30-1-3:40-4:10-6:50-7:20-10-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, Wed 1
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:15-7:35-10:55 Fri-Thu 1:30-4:40-7:50-11
Brave (G) Fri 2-4:30 Sat 11:25-2-4:30 Sun-Thu 2-4:30 Brave 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Fri-Thu 12:45-3:30-6:45-9:30 Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 12:15
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:40-5:05-7:30-9:55
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Thu 12:2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Fri-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:15-10
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Thu 7:25-10:40
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri-Thu 10:50
People Like Us (PG) Fri 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Sat 11:30-2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Sun-Thu 2:15-5-7:45-10:30
Prometheus (14A) Fri-Thu 2:05-5-7:55-10:55 Savages (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Fri-Thu 12:30-3:45-7-10:20
Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Thu 1:55-4:50-7:50-10:50
The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (G) Sat 11 Take This Waltz (14A) Fri 2:25-5:10-8-10:45 Sat 11:40-2:25-5:10-8-10:45 Sun-Thu 2:25-5:10-8-10:45
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:15-10:55 Fri-Thu 2:30-5:15-8-10:45

Hollywood 3 Cinema
7125-138th Street, Surrey

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri-Thu 4-6:30 Chimpanzee (G) Fri-Sat 12:45-2:40 Sun 2:40 Mon-Thu 12:45-2:40
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:30
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Thu 1
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri-Thu 4:30
Men in Black 3 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 6:45-9
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:30
Rock of Ages (PG) Fri-Thu 9:35
Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Thu 4:30-7:05
That's My Boy (14A) Fri-Thu 9

Strawberry Hill Grande
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:40-7:50-11
Bol Bachchan (STC) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:45-7:10-10:35 Brave (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:15-4:45 Brave 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15
Jatt & Juliet (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:05-6:40-10
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (G) Fri-Mon 12:25-2:50-5:15-7:40-10:10 Tue-Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 12:15
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:40-5:05-7:30-9:55
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:40
Prometheus (14A) Fri-Thu 7:35-10:25
Savages (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:35 The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (G) Sat 11
Ted (14A) Fri-Tue 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:15-10:55 Wed 5:40-8:15-10:55 Thu 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:15-10:55 Star & Strollers Screening, Wed 1
Teri Meri Kahaani (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:30-7:25-10:10

Studio 12 Guildford
15051-101st Ave, Surrey

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) , Fri-Tue 1:40-4:35-7:40-10:40 , Wed 4:35-7:40-10:40 , Thu 1:40-4:35-7:40-10:40
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) , , Fri-Thu 12:30-3:45-7-10:10 The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) , , Fri-Thu 1-3:15-6:30-9:40
Bol Bachchan (STC) , Fri-Thu 12:40-4-7:15-10:15 Brave (G) , Fri-Thu 12:25
Brave 3D (G) , Fri-Thu 3:20-6:45-9:15
Jatt & Juliet (PG) , , Sub-Titled Fri-Thu 12:20-3:25-6:40-10
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (G) , Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-6:20-9
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) , Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-6:15
Magic Mike (14A) , , Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:50 , Wed 1 , Mon-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:50 People Like Us (PG) , Fri-Thu 12:45-3:30-6:50-9:25
Savages (18A) , , Fri-Thu 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:20 Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) , Fri-Thu 9:20
Ted (14A) , Fri-Thu 1:20-4:30-7:30-10:30

Rialto, 1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30 Savages (18A) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25

Criterion 4 White Rock
2381 King George Highway

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 2-7-9:40 Brave (G) Fri-Thu 2:10-7:10-9:05
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 2:30
Moonrise Kingdom (PG) Fri-Thu 7:30-9:35
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 2:20-7:20-9:30

Colossus Langley
20090-91A Ave, Langley,

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:50-5:25-8:10-10:45
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:10-6:20-9:30
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 Fri-Thu 1:30-4:40-7:50-11
The Amazing Spider-Man: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Brave (G) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:35-5
Brave 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-3-5:30-8-10:30
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 12:15
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:40-5:05-7:30-9:55
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Tue 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Wed 12:05-7:30-10:40 Thu 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:45-7-10:20
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:05-5:35-8:15-10:50
People Like Us (PG) Fri 2:15-5:05-7:45-10:35 Sat 11:25-2:15-5:05-7:45-10:35 Sun-Thu 2:15-5:05-7:45-10:35
Prometheus 3D (14A) Fri 2:05-5-7:55-10:50 Sat 11:05-2:05-5-7:55-10:50 Sun-Thu 2:05-5-7:55-10:50
Rock of Ages (PG) Fri 1:55-4:50-7:40-10:40 Sat 11-1:55-4:50-7:40-10:40 Sun-Thu 1:55-4:50-7:40-10:40
Savages (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:35
Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:50-7:50-10:55
The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (G) Sat 11
Take This Waltz (14A) Fri-Thu 7:40-10:25
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:05-5:40-8:20-11
That's My Boy (14A) Fri-Thu 12-2:45-5:25-8:10-10:55
Wimbledon 2012 3D: Men's Final (STC) Sun 6

Singer Alexis Krauss of Sleigh Bells has been a staple on the Coachella scene. CHARLEY GALLAY/GETTY IMAGES

Sleigh Bells' Reign of Terror

New music. Album plays homage to classic rock bands like Def Leppard and pop acts like Cyndi Lauper and the Go Go's

PAT HEALY
Metro World News

Sleigh Bells seemed to emerge fully formed, with a brutally unique sound of overblown guitars and vocals that alternated between pop-singer sweetness and cheerleader vengeance.

The Brooklyn duo's 2009 debut, Treats, landed on nearly every single year-end best-of list, including this publication's.

For their follow-up, Reign of Terror, released this spring, guitarist Derek Miller and singer Alexis Krauss decided to do away with some of the tricks of Treats in favour of more conventional sounds. But they put these sounds into a context that is anything but conventional.

"In a lot of ways, Reign of Terror is an homage to classic rock and a lot of arena rock songs that are pretty formulaic and pretty universal in terms of structure and what they make you feel," says Krauss. "We were very shameless in referencing bands like Def Leppard or pop acts like Cyndi Lauper or the Go Go's."

Where Krauss was filling in pre-written vocal parts for the debut, the pair collaborated more for Reign of Terror, and the result is something more melodic. There are even a few ballads on the album. Krauss says she knows that the combination of '80s metal and their own pop and punk instincts have definitely turned off a few listeners. But she has no regrets.

"We always say that we don't really have any guilty pleasures," she says. "If we listen to something and we like it, we're not embarrassed about referencing it. We're both real lovers of pop music, so I think being able to write a really simple but catchy hook is one of the hardest things to do as a songwriter. And we kind of like thinking that way: 'How can we write a song as good as Pour Some Sugar on Me?'"

Quoted

"In a lot of ways, Reign of Terror is an homage to classic rock and a lot of arena rock songs that are pretty formulaic and pretty universal."

Alexis Krauss
Talking about their new album Reign of Terror.

Like father, like son

Music. Adam Cohen enjoying career high at the same time as poet father, Leonard

Leonard Cohen has been enjoying such a charmed year musically that it's hard to imagine how even the masterfully morose poet could locate a downside in 2012.

His first album in more than seven years, Old Ideas, became his first to top the charts in Canada en route to platinum sales, and caused critics to collectively lose their breath. Meanwhile, the 77-year-old Montreal-born singer won the prestigious Glenn Gould Prize and the inaugural PEN songwriting prize while charting an ambitious globe-spanning tour for the second half of the year.

Well, it's been a heady year for Leonard's son, Adam, as well. The 39-year-old also released an album after a seven-year-plus layoff of his own, and the musical reinvention Like a Man is his most acclaimed work to date. In the coming weeks, he'll open for the likes of Bob Dylan, Norah Jones and Rufus Wainwright.

But his own success aside, he's enjoying his father's renaissance as much as anyone.

"I do think it's a coincidence, but at the same time, I also know that to be in his wake is a delicious and satisfying occurrence," says the younger Cohen in a telephone interview this week from Montreal, where he's in rehearsals.

"I've often said that what I think is the distinguishing trait with my father is that he remains to me pertinent and anything but a nostalgia act. It gives me great pleasure to bear witness."

Adam Cohen's latest album, Like a Man, is garnering critical acclaim. HANDOUT

Quoted

"Now I'm finding such joy in it. I want to celebrate the guy while he's still around."

Adam Cohen on paying tribute to his dad during performances

In fact, it was his father who in part inspired Adam Cohen's late-career left-turn.

He issued his self-titled debut back in 1998, and in 2004 followed with a French-language album, as well as a disc as frontman of the alt-rock outfit Low Millions.

None of the records gained much traction, and he's now quick to question his own artistic priorities during those fledgling stages of his career.

"I was so preoccupied with trying to play in the highest ranks of pop music," he says. "My esthetic goals were tight jeans, four chords and sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. I wasn't focused on the art."

Eventually, things started to seem dire. He contemplated quitting music altogether.

"I thought that I had basically tried and failed, and that I was already on the outs," he says. "When you're relegated to scoring porno flicks, writing for others, pitching for movies and commercials, a certain reality does dawn on you."

The whole time he had the songs that comprise Like a Man in his back pocket. He'd been hesitant to record them — in part because of how closely they hewed to his dad's classic work — a mistake he now considers "tragic."

So what changed his mind? When he became a father himself, he began to reconcile his relationship to his own dad's music, or as he puts it, the "family business." Afraid of the perception of nepotism, he had always shunned those influences that would inevitably creep into his music.

Now, the intimate, spare Like a Man invites those comparisons.

"This record is a claiming of an identity, an embrace and a declaration of belonging," he says. "And also, it's a coming of age record. It's reconciling where I've been with where I want to be.

"I thought carving out a path for myself meant outside of the family farm," he adds.

"I found my place is much more true within it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Did you know?

Even more useless information

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

I spent an ungodly amount of time researching music for The Secret Music of Rock (my weekly radio show) and a museum exhibit due to open in Kansas City this fall. I continually uncover some pretty wacky things that I feel duty-bound to report to you. I swear that none of this is made up.

• It's estimated that around the world, 5,000 people make a full-time living from The Beatles. This not only includes people at their record label, their publishing company and their various offices, but writers, researchers, collectors and various other full-time Beatles experts.

• Your dog thinks your music is noise. Because they perceive sound differently than we do (it has to do with their hearing ability, frequencies of their vocalizations and their resting heartbeat), dogs can't perceive music the way we do. Cats, on the other hand, have a certain appreciation for songs that have a fast beat and plenty of high notes. However, studies have proven that both dogs and cats become agitated by heavy metal.

• One of the most expensive gramophones ever produced was called an auxetophone, which amplified music by means of a convoluted compressed air system. (Electronic amplification was still 20 years in the future.) When it went on sale in 1906, it sold for $500, the equivalent of more than $12,000 today.

• Ramones drummer Marky Ramone has his own brand of marinara sauce. It's also used by a food truck in Brooklyn called Cruisin' Kitchen.

• The World Musical Chairs Championships was held last month in Amesbury, Massachusetts. More than 500 people participated. Next year's goal is to attract 8,000.

• In Japan, the maximum penalty for uploading songs for the intent for others to download them illegally is $125,000 and 10 years in jail.

• Horror rocker Rob Zombie is making a movie about the Philadelphia Flyers of the 1970s.

• Madonna is currently touring with a 200-person entourage. This includes 30 bodyguards and a personal dry cleaner. If that wasn't enough, each hotel room she books has to be stripped and furnished with furniture she has shipped in. This includes all toilet seats.

• Lady Gaga's next fashion project is to create a hat made of cockroaches. You read that correctly.

• The English Folk and Dance Society wants to make traditional songs for kids popular again. This includes rewriting Humpty Dumpty so that he survives. In the new version, he bungee jumps.

Instructions from the Grammy-winning guru

Music. Want to write a chart-topping country tune? Acclaimed Canadian songwriter tells how

If songs are like children to professional hit-makers, Canadian Gordie Sampson is one watchful dad.

The 40-year-old from Big Pond, N.S., has penned two chart-topping smash singles for Carrie Underwood while also dashing off songs for the likes of Keith Urban, Miranda Lambert, Blake Shelton, Martina McBride and LeAnn Rimes.

The Grammy winner estimates that he demos about 75 songs a year, so surely it's difficult to keep tabs on all his musical offspring?

"God no, you're glued to the (chart)," the personable Sampson said down the line from the East Coast this week. "First thing you do in the morning before you have your coffee is check the chart and see if it went up a point overnight.

"Not that I'd know, but I guess it's a bit like watching your stocks. You've got an investment and one starts to take off, and it goes up a point one day, and down a point the next, and you're like: 'Oh shoot, is it done? Is it going to fall off the chart?' And the next day it jumps up five places.

"So it's just this manic depression that lasts 40 weeks or so."

Of course, Sampson points out that for a professional songwriter, it's more lucrative for a song to take its time gradually climbing the chart to No. 1 — "That's the dream," he says.

If that logic surprises you, welcome to the world of behind-the-scenes hit crafting. This month, Sampson is sharing his insights with hopeful songwriters at his third annual Songcamp in Cape Breton, N.S., culminating in two live performances from his pupils on July 12 in Ingonish.

But for those other fans whose Stetsons are stuffed to the brim with good song ideas, Sampson shares the following tips for penning a chart-topping country tune:

Words are worth the world

To hear Sampson tell it, no factor is more critical to a country song's success than its lyrics.

"The lyric is more important in a country song than most other kinds of music," he said.

And what's the key to a country turn of phrase that gleams as brightly as a cowboy's belt buckle? Keep it simple, partner. Sampson said that it's important to make sure the words are general enough so that anyone listening can relate. So if a country crooner warbles a tune about a "her," Sampson says the lyric should work whether the listener thinks the pronoun refers to his wife, his mother or his dog.

Teamwork is important

Sampson says that most of the hopeful charges that come through his camp are already "amazing" songwriters. What they tend to struggle with is co-writing.

It's an important skill, particularly for professional songwriters. Sampson guesses that he hasn't written a song alone in roughly a decade.

Repetition is unavoidable

Did you just realize your newly penned masterpiece sounds exactly like another tune shuffling up the country charts? Don't panic. It happens to, literally, the best of them.

"Country music is three chords and the truth," Sampson said. "You have to figure that there's, let's say, a thousand signed writers in Nashville all writing a song a day — that's 5,000 songs a week ... all trying to use the same three chords.

Know when to quit

Sampson says that in a Nashville songwriting session, it tends to take between three and four hours to finish writing a song.

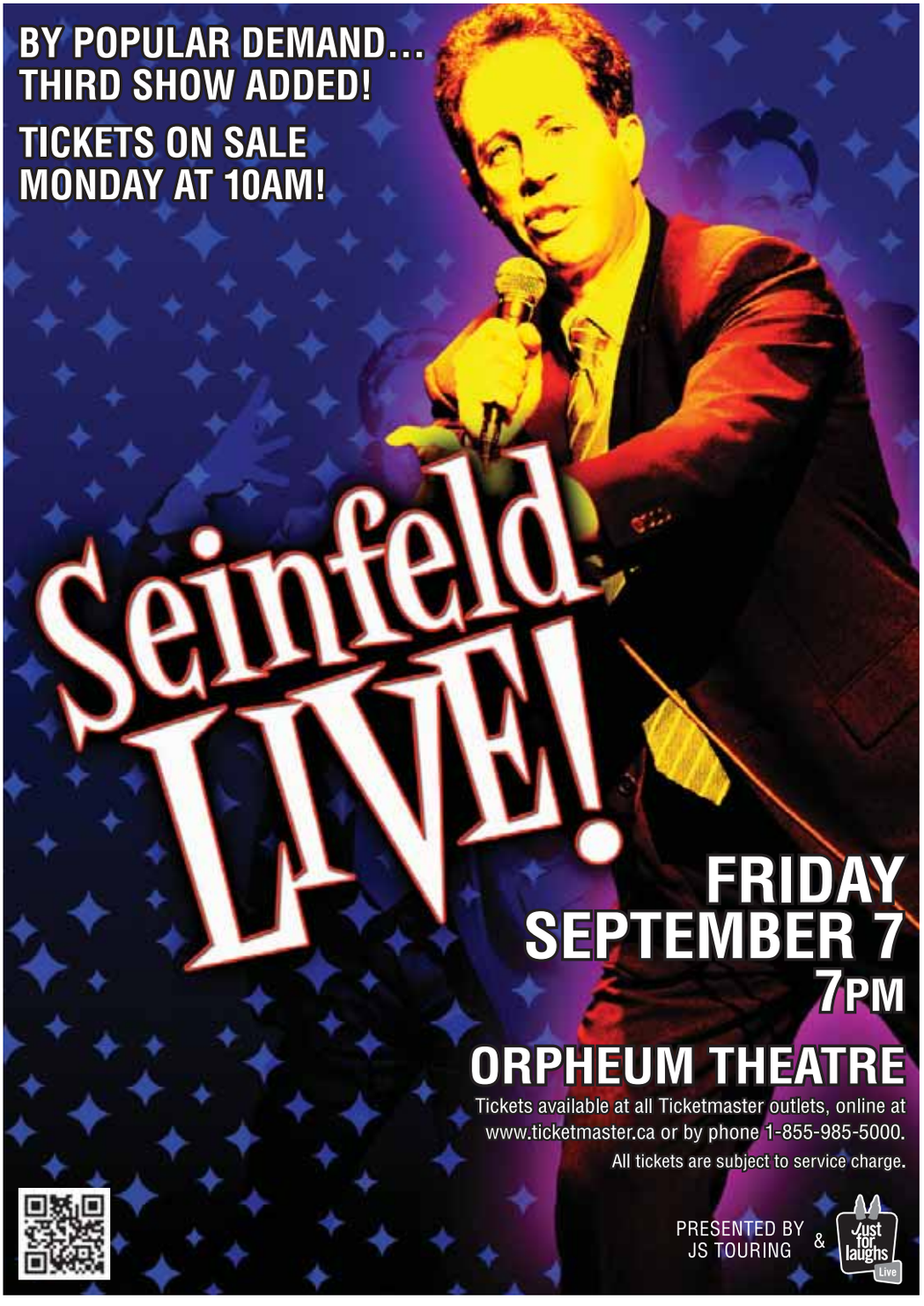
It can also take days. But sometimes the best ideas germinate and bloom quickly. Sampson and his team wrote Underwood's Grammy-winning, chart-topping smash Jesus, Take the Wheel in less than two hours. And knowing when it's time to stop tinkering can be a crucial skill.

"Sometimes, a song being written very quickly can be an indication of how great it is because the song and the lyric ends up being uninhibited — the lyric has a freedom to it," he said.

"Whereas if you sit down and pine over a lyric for three days, you tend to overwrite it in the same way (a painter) can put too many colours on a picture.... Songs can be sort of overpainted."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gordie Sampson's third annual Songcamp takes place in Cape Breton, N.S., this month. HANDOUT



Victoria Secret model Miranda Kerr ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Miranda Kerr's labour of love a little tougher than expected

Victoria's Secret Angel Miranda Kerr, wife of Orlando Bloom, knew she wanted to have their baby without drugs; she gave birth to son Flynn Christopher back in January. "I had made a decision that I wanted to do it [naturally]," she says in the August issue of Harper's Bazaar UK.

"It was a long, arduous and difficult labour," she continued, "but Orlando was with me the whole time supporting and guiding me through it. I could not have done it without him."

Newlywed Matthew McConaughey adding to the family

Matthew McConaughey and his wife Camila aren't just newlyweds, they're also expecting.

McConaughey's representative confirmed that his wife is pregnant with the couple's third child. Both the actor and his bride tweeted the news on Wednesday.

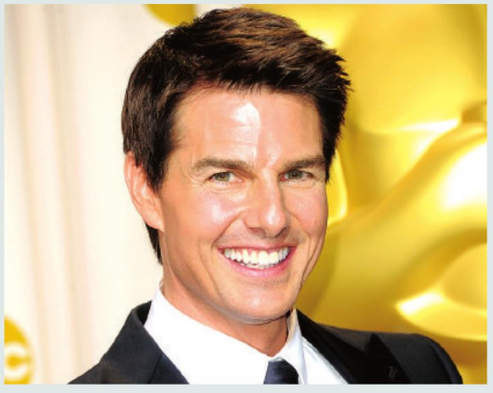
"Happy birthday America, more good news, Camila and I are expecting our 3rd child," the actor wrote, "God bless, just keep livin'." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Matthew McConaughey

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Was TomKat marriage running on Cruise control?

What started as a rather titillating celebrity divorce is now devolving into a sadly familiar one. Tom Cruise has "absolutely no contact with Katie," according to website TMZ, with Cruise talking only to daughter Suri, 6, on the phone, once a day.

Things are "really bitter now," the source tells the site, with Katie "using Suri as a weapon." Meanwhile, photographers caught Holmes laughing at an ice cream parlor with Suri as bodyguards stood on watch.

"He has been Tom Cruise for 30 years," she told Elle magazine, in their just-released issue, which may have offered clues about the divorce to come.

"I know who I am and where I am and where I want to go, so I want to focus on that. I definitely feel much more comfortable in my own skin. I feel sexier," she continued. "I'm starting to come into my own. It's like a new phase."

With Cruise in the news, the paps are suddenly interested in Nicole Kidman, his ex, again.

They caught her having — gasp! — dinner with her husband, country singer Keith Urban, at a Florida restaurant, according to Us Magazine. The 45-year-old divorced Cruise in 2001, after an 11-year marriage.

Claire Danes

Claire Danes expecting first child with husband Hugh Dancy

Claire Danes has some busy months ahead: Not only is her hit TV series Homeland returning for its second season in September, but she's pregnant as well. Danes' rep, Jodi Gottlieb, confirms the actress is expecting her first child with husband Hugh Dancy.

The 33-year-old Danes and 37-year-old Dancy met on the set of the film Evening and were married in 2009 in France. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter

@kirstiealley
FYI, I'm not an fan of 50 Shades..The only thing separating him from the "run of the mill" S&M pervs out there is a $1,000,000,000.. Sorry.

@UncleRUSH
Practice loving everything and everybody all the time, but only hang in places and with people who lift you up.

@Cher
Fell Asleep w/Phone ON, On MY "PILLOW" Somehow (Crazy Bitch) & Friends Called From Russia! AHH HELLO! Middle of nite & cant get back 2 sleep.

@russellcrowe
24.4 mile bike ride (40+ km), flash w/o at muscle beach gym- deadlift/bench/shoulder routine/biceps 8min prone hold.

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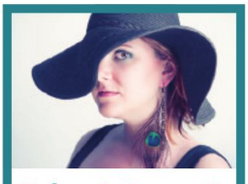

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metro News worth sharing.

Sweet strawberry-chocolate endings off of the grill

Grilled Dessert Pizza. Since you'll be barbecuing this weekend anyway, why not get creative?

For a backyard get-together, dessert has got to be easy and easy going.

And since you're probably making the rest of your meal on the grill anyway, why not use it to prep dessert, too?

This dessert pizza is incredibly quick and versatile. Top it with whatever sweet treats you like, or consider making individual ones and having a dessert pizza bar so people can select their own toppings.

Be sure to let the pizza dough rest at room temperature for about 30 minutes before trying to roll it out. Otherwise, it will be too stiff to work with and will resist stretching.

1. Heat a grill to medium-high.

2. Scatter half of the sugar on a counter top. Place the pizza dough over the sugar and roll out into the sugar. Sprinkle the top of the dough with the remaining sugar, then roll again to press the sugar into the top. You should have a rough circle about 12 inches in diameter.

3. Transfer the dough to a baking sheet, then head out to the grill.

4. Use an oil-soaked paper towel held with tongs to oil the grill grates.

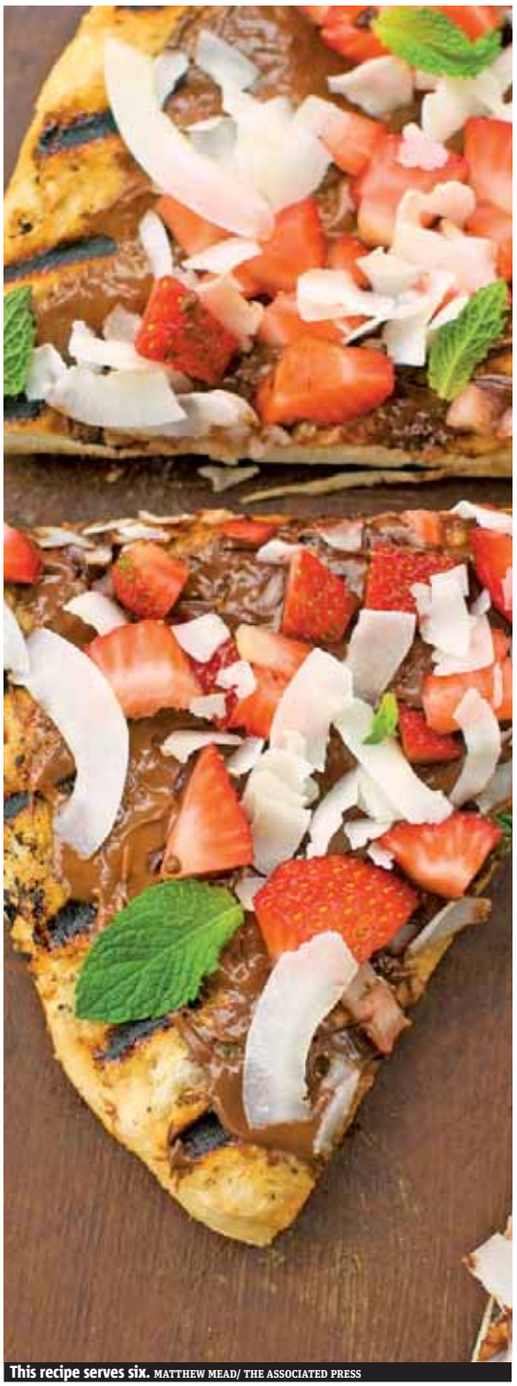
5. Transfer pizza dough directly onto the grates. Cook for 3 minutes per side, or until cooked and lightly browned.

6. Return the crust to the baking sheet and immediately sprinkle the chocolate bits over the top. Wait 1 minute to allow the chocolate to melt, then use a butter knife or silicone spatula to spread the melted chocolate evenly over the crust. Sprinkle with the chopped strawberries and the flaked coconut. Enjoy warm.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup turbinado or demerara sugar, divided
- 16-oz ball refrigerated pizza dough
- Canola or vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate bits
- 1 1/2 cups chopped fresh strawberries
- 3/4 cup flaked coconut



This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liquid Assets

Sip your way back to the origins of wine

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
peterrockwell@eastlink.ca

Forget about the fashion, music and auto industries. None are driven by trends more aggressively than the booze business.

While some subsegments virtually re-invent themselves every year, others simply go back to the future to find the next big thing.

The wine world spins like a top on this axis. Need proof? Though floundering for years, the juice from France and Italy is back on top again.

As consumers sip their way back to the origins of wine making, some polarizing flavour profiles are reaching out and grabbing the palates of wine lovers with a grip that even Iron Man would envy.

The hottest "what the heck" wine that has found fame is white moscato. Its romantic sounding name is actually the Italian translation of muscat — one of the oldest families of grapes in the world.

International winemakers have borrowed the term with E & J Gallo's Barefoot Moscato ($9.95 - $11.99) a prime example of the style's balance of easy-drinking, plush, white fruit sweetness and low alcohol.

Well chilled, moscato makes for a refreshing warm weather sipper and a fine match with fresh fruit, most cheeses and sugary desserts. PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Cookbook

Pushing the vegetarian envelope

A new vegetarian cookbook by two Montreal chefs is pushing the envelope by offering readers dishes that are both classic and internationally inspired.

"From a chef's point of view, it is more important to take a quality product such as locally grown fresh vegetables and use good techniques so that you can have a wonderful result," says Igor Brotto.

He has co-authored The Vegetarian Kitchen Table Cookbook with Olivier Guiriec (Robert Rose, $27.95, paperback).

Among the 275 recipes there are Red Curry Tofu with Shiitake Mushrooms and Bamboo Shoots, Sun-dried Tomato, Brie and Arugula Wraps and Fig and Almond Tart.

As classical chefs used to working with lobster, filet mignon and foie gras, Brotto says he enjoys the chance to relegate the meat to the background to allow the vegetable part of the dish to shine up front on the plate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the Web

Fresh local strawberries star in shortcake, french toast, asparagus salad

This recipe serves eight. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Strawberry Jiggle Trifle. Cross gelatin mould with strawberry shortcake

1. Coat a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with cooking spray, line with plastic wrap, leaving excess wrap overhanging outside the short ends of the pan.

2. In bowl, stir gelatin, sugar and cold water. Let sit 5 minutes. Pour boiling water into bowl and stir to dissolve. Add juice concentrate and stir. Pour into prepared pan and refrigerate for 3 hours, or until firm.

3. When the gelatin is firm, use the plastic wrap to lift it out of the pan and overturn it onto a cutting board. Discard the plastic wrap, then cut the sheet of gelatin into 3/4-inch cubes. Set aside.

4. Using electric mixer, beat cream and powdered sugar until semi-firm peaks form.

5. In a trifle dish or a deep glass bowl, place a layer of the angel food cake cubes. Top with a layer of the strawberries, then the whipped cream, and finally the cubed gelatin. Repeat this layering process until you've used all the ingredients. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 4 envelopes (1 oz) unflavoured gelatin (each box contains 4 envelopes)
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup cold water
- 1 cup boiling water
- 12-oz can frozen berry blend juice concentrate, thawed
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 2 lbs fresh strawberries, quartered
- 13-oz angel food cake, cut into cubes

Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events courtesy of Notable.ca.
To get even more info on these Notable happenings make sure to check out notable.ca/nationwide/metro/July6

NOTABLE NOW
Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

A worthy, filling cause

This Friday, Save on Meats has teamed up with PLEA Community Services in support of the 34th Annual PRIDE Parade and Generation Out groups to raise funds for the PLEA has PRIDE float and youth in Vancouver's LGBTQS community. Dine at this city hot spot and donate a dollar toward a worthy cause. 43 West Hastings St. plea.ca and vancouverpride.ca for details.

Recently opened: The Acorn

This stylishly-vegetarian restaurant just opened the doors to its cozy (50 seat) space on Main Street. Discerning diners looking to please their palate with something fresh and different will find a menu loaded with gluten free, vegan, raw and vegetarian options (with late night bites, wine and beer available until 2 a.m.). theacornrestaurant.ca.

Underwear Affair

Join BC Cancer Foundation's Underwear Affair and help find the cure for underfunded below-the-waist cancers like prostate, ovarian, and colorectal. On July 7, take part in running the 10K or stroll your way through the fun 5K and show your awareness to down there-ness. Race check-in is at Lot 6C — 88 Pacific Blvd. and starts at 3:30 p.m. va12.uncoverthecure.org

Indian Summer Festival

The 2nd Annual Indian Summer Festival starts just in time for the weekend and runs until July 15th. It will showcase top talent from South Asia (music, dance, literature, film, arts, cuisine and wellness are just a few areas highlighted). Events take place at various locations in Vancouver. indiansummerfestival.ca

Keloha Music & Arts Festival

One of BC's newest music and art festivals takes place this weekend, July 6 to 8 in sunny Kelowna's Waterfront Park next to Okanagan Lake. With 25 artisans on display and more than 26 hot indie, alternative, pop, rock and folk bands taking the stage, it promises to provide a notable escape to the tropics. 1200 Water St. keloha.com

Can You Dig It! fundraising event

Dust off those green thumbs, grab your spade and join others in the Vancouver community to help create a sustainable food source by helping build gardens and give back a portion of the food to those who are in need. Help lend a hand to this local, non-profit organization. The event takes place Sat., July 7 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Clark and 12th Street.

Ballet lovers dancing for joy as their beloved art hits the mainstream

Tutu trend. What started with the film Black Swan has turned into a series of TV shows and sold-out ballet performances

Natalie Portman won plenty of critical praise for her role in Black Swan. CONTRIBUTED

"I'm really digging it," says Ronnie Underwood, a buff, tattooed motorcycle enthusiast, auto racer and former football player who also happens to be a ballet dancer.

Oh, and a reality show star. Underwood, 30, is one of the main characters on Breaking Pointe, the CW series about the lives and loves, trials and tribulations of the dancers at Ballet West, a highly regarded company in Salt Lake City.

The season comes to a finale next week, and suspense is high: Will Ronnie, Rex, Christiana and Allison be ready for their close-up? Or will opening-night jitters, not to mention relationship issues, derail their hard work? But we digress. What Underwood is "digging" is the broader fact that ballet, often relegated to a dusty, forgotten shelf in the current culture, seems to be having its moment in the sun.

Besides Breaking Pointe, there's the ABC Family show Bunheads, starring the Tony-winning actress Sutton Foster (the title is dance-speak for ballerinas, a reference to their neatly coiled hairdos). And hugely popular dance-competition shows like Dancing with the Stars have featured guest turns by ballet dancers like Jose Manuel Carreno, recently retired from American Ballet Theatre, and the ballerina Tiler Peck of New York City Ballet.

There's also a popular documentary film garnering praise, First Position, which tracks young dancers in a global competition. But it's a much more famous 2010 film that gets much of the credit for starting the ballet mini-craze: Darren Aronofsky's cool and edgy Black Swan, which starred Natalie Portman and brought a whole new vibe to that stuffy classic, Swan Lake.

"Black Swan really did bring ballet into the mainstream pop culture consciousness in a way it hadn't been for a while — and that was great for us in the ballet world," says Rob Daniels, managing director at New York City Ballet.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trend

Black Swan makes a flap

New York City Ballet managing director Rob Daniels says the company sold out its runs of Swan Lake for two seasons after the film opened.

"And it definitely felt the houses were younger — that young people were coming who'd seen the film and were curious about ballet," Daniels says.

Not that there was any lasting economic boon for NYCB or other ballet companies — like arts institutions, dance companies have had to struggle in a harsh economy.

But those in the dance world say, give it time —they're simply buoyed by the thought that more people may come to know and appreciate the art of ballet.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Canucks add rearguard depth

The Vancouver Canucks have added some depth to their defence, signing Derek Joslin and Patrick Mullen on Thursday.

Joslin, 27, split last season between the Carolina Hurricanes and Charlotte Checkers of the American Hockey League.

He appeared in 44 games with the Hurricanes, collecting four points and 35 penalty minutes. He added three assists in four games with Charlotte.

The Richmond Hill, Ont., native has recorded 16 NHL points (four goals, 12 assists) in 114 career games. He was originally selected by the San Jose Sharks 149th overall in the fifth round of the 2005 NHL entry draft.

Mullen, 26, collected 20 points (three goals, 17 assists) in 67 games with the AHL's Manchester Monarchs last season. The Pittsburgh native also appeared in seven playoff games, recording one point and four penalty minutes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Derek Joslin GETTY IMAGES FILE

Lions look to 'turn the tide' against Ticats

CFL. B.C. looking for revenge against recent nemesis from Hamilton

Geroy Simon at the line of scrimmage last week against Winnipeg. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Last week, receiver Geroy Simon was looking to put his name in the CFL's history books.

This week, he and the rest of the B.C. Lions are looking for redemption against the Hamilton Tiger-Cats on Friday night.

Simon set the CFL's all-time receiving record in B.C.'s season-opening win over Winnipeg. But he and his teammates are dissatisfied with recent efforts against Hamilton.

The Ticats have won four of the past five regular-season meetings between the teams dating to 2009. Including playoffs, the Southern Ontario squad is 4-2 against B.C. in the same time span.

"We're looking to play better against these guys," said Simon after a walk-through Thursday at BC Place. "We haven't played particularly well the last couple of years. They've had our number, so we're looking to turn the tide and get a victory."

Simon is looking forward to a more normal game after being the centre of attention before and after eclipsing retired Bombers great Milt Stegall's record. Most of Simon's friends and family have gone home following the history-setting night, when he caught five passes for 105 yards in the Grey Cup rematch to reach 15,192 yards for his career.

Two friends are coming in from Winnipeg for Friday's contest, when the Lions will pay him a longer tribute during a special half-time ceremony. But Simon expects to be able to concentrate better against Hamilton.

"Things are back to normal," he said. "I'm feeling good. I'm ready to go. Hardly no distractions, so I'm ready to rock and roll."

But the Lions have not been able to produce much in the way of a melody against the Tiger-Cats lately. Hamilton went 2-0 against the Lions last season, beating them 39-31 in July. The loss was the fourth of five straight season-opening setbacks for the Lions.

B.C. soon turned its fortunes around, winning 11 of its next 12 games en route to the sixth Grey Cup in franchise history. But the Lions have still not solved the Ticats.

The lone loss in the late-season surge was to Hamilton — in the form of a 42-10 whitewashing. No other team has beaten B.C. since then.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Re-evaluation for Week 2

Columnist Dan Toth discusses why Simon's best-receiver-ever coronation is premature and in which city a QB controversy is already brewing, among other CFL thoughts

Photos by The Canadian Press/Torstar News Service

Tempering Tate's great start in Calgary

The Stamps like life without Henry Burris, at least through one game. New Stamps starter Drew Tate is living up to expectations in Cowtown with a 300-yard passing game in the season opener. The big test now is playing three games in 12 days during their annual exodus East during Calgary Stampede Week.

Simon's numbers don't say it all

Don't be too quick to anoint Geroy Simon the best receiver in CFL history, even though he vaulted over Milt Stegall into first overall in career receiving yards. Stegall achieved his numbers with less proficient QBs, Ben Cahoon had better hands, Allen Pitts was tougher to defend and old-timers will tell you Hal Patterson was a combination of all those traits.

Pierce protection problem persists

We established last year that the Bombers were going nowhere if they couldn't protect QB Buck Pierce. The injury-prone pivot was sidelined by a knee injury when enduring one of four sacks last week in B.C., although he's expected to play Friday in Montreal. Still, Pierce won't succeed and might not survive the 2012 season without protection from the pass rush.

Easier being Green?

The Green Gods have put to rest six months of second-guessing among the faithful, terrified the team would struggle again in 2012. A road win over Hamilton in Week 1 has restored faith in the Riders. They haven't beaten a West Division opponent since the 2010 West final in Calgary, but can end that streak with a win Sunday over Edmonton.

No smiles yet for sputtering Jyles

Can't remember the last time fans wanted their QB pulled when LEADING by a touchdown, but that's what happens when drives continually stall. New Eskimos starter Steven Jyles is thankful kicker Grant Shaw connected his four field goals in a Week 1 win over Toronto, but Jyles' ability to find the end zone is a work in progress.

4 SPORTS

Quoted

"For sure, it's a concern, but the good thing is that I don't remember what happened. There was a four- or five-minute period where I don't recall anything."

Alexandre Despatie, the two-time Olympic silver medallist who suffered a concussion and nasty gash on his forehead during practice June 12 in Spain, confirmed his participation at the 2012 Games at a news conference Thursday. Despatie said he is back in the pool training a few days ahead of schedule, although he has yet to work on the dives he will use in competition. He said that due to the concussion, getting back to Olympic form is a step-by-step process that cannot be rushed, but he feels he's doing well.

"I'm going to the Games to do my best."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Soccer finally embraced goal-line technology as FIFA's lawmaking panel approved two new systems for use in matches. FIFA will introduce goal-line technology at the Club World Cup in Japan in December, and plans to use it in Brazil at the 2014 World Cup. Scan the code for the story.

MLB

Royals earn series split with Blue Jays

Eric Hosmer had three runs batted in as the Kansas City Royals held off the Toronto Blue Jays for a 9-6 victory on Thursday to earn a series split.

Salvador Perez had a career-best four hits for the Royals to extend his hit streak to 11 games.

J.P. Arencibia hit two home runs for Toronto (42-41) and had three runs batted in for the game.

Toronto's Henderson Alvarez allowed eight hits in 5 1/3 innings and all five of the runs charged to him were in the third inning.

Blue Jays reliever Francisco Cordero allowed three runs in the eighth with two scoring after he was late to cover first base on a ground ball. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brett Lawrie bare-hands a ball Thursday in Toronto.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Another rough-and-tumble day at the Tour de France

The pack with the Euskaltel-Euskadi team, centre in orange, speeds downhill during the fifth stage of the Tour de France Thursday from Rouen to Saint-Quentin, France. In yet another crash-marred finish, Andre Greipel of Germany led a frenzied bunch sprint to win the fifth stage of the tour on Thursday for his second straight stage victory. Fabian Cancellara retained the yellow jersey for a sixth straight day after the mostly flat 196.5-kilometre trek from Rouen to Saint-Quentin, which was almost tailor-made for sprinters except for a slight uphill near the end.
CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nash's decision to join Lakers all about location

NBA. Star Canadian point guard's thought process revolved around championship chances and his children

Steve Nash could have earned more money while enjoying the twilight of his remarkable NBA career in Manhattan, his off-season home. Or he could have returned to Canada, finishing up his playing days in Toronto with an eye toward national history and another career in the front office.

Instead, the two-time MVP point guard is going Hollywood.

Nash, from Victoria, is teaming up with Kobe Bryant and whatever seven-foot stars end up with the Los Angeles Lakers for at least a few more seasons of title contention on the best team within a short flight of Phoenix, where his three children live.

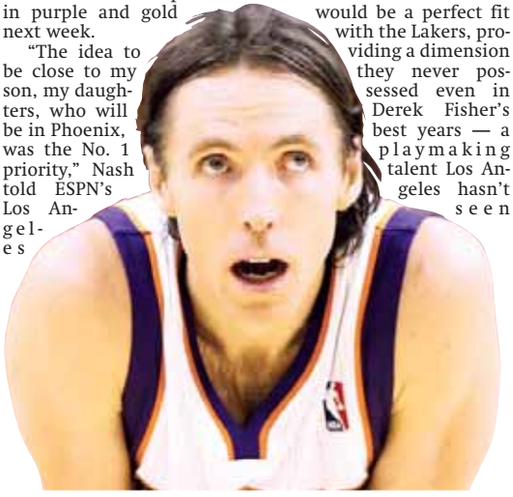
So what if the Lakers have been among his biggest rivals throughout his entire NBA career with Dallas and Phoenix? So what if he'll be in a backcourt with a ball-dominating superstar who has never shared possession with a point guard of Nash's abilities? So what if he can't wear No. 13, which is hanging in the Staples Center rafters with Wilt Chamberlain's name forever attached to it?

Children and championships trumped everything else in Nash's mind when he agreed to a sign-and-trade deal that will put him in purple and gold next week.

"The idea to be close to my son, my daughters, who will be in Phoenix, was the No. 1 priority," Nash told ESPN's Los Angeles station Thursday.

"Don't get me wrong, it's fantastic," he added. "I think I'm a good fit for the team, and we have a great team, we're a contender, that's all incredible, too."

The 38-year-old says he spoke to Bryant Monday to see whether he wanted to work together. Bryant took a break from his basketball camp in Santa Barbara to confirm he thinks Nash would be a perfect fit with the Lakers, providing a dimension they never possessed even in Derek Fisher's best years — a playmaking talent Los Angeles hasn't seen since Magic Johnson was running the show.



Quoted

"The reality is, it was too great of an opportunity to pass up as far as my children were concerned. And fortunately for me, it's a great basketball situation."
Lakers point guard Steve Nash

Nash said Bryant thinks he can be "somebody to handle the ball and lead. He also felt that we were complementary leaders. I'm more on the positive side, he's more ... I think as he said it, cracks the whip. I think pick-and-roll, adding that to the offence and being able to space the floor for the big guys inside, I think it's a good fit. He was excited, and I think that was important for me."

About seven months after the Lakers' efforts to get Chris Paul were squashed by the NBA, they turned a trade exception acquired during that fiasco into Nash.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wimbledon. Serena powers her way to final

Serena Williams wins with so much more than serving, of course. Her groundstrokes are intimidating. Her superb speed and anticipation fuel unparalleled court-covering defence. Her returns are outstanding,

When that serve is on-target, though, it sure is something special, quite possibly the greatest in the history of women's tennis. Lashing a tournament-record 24 aces at up to 120 mph, and doing plenty of other things well, too, four-time Wimbledon champion Williams overpowered No. 2-seeded Victoria Azarenka of Belarus 6-3, 7-6 (6) Thursday to reach her seventh final at the All England Club.

"Isn't that something?" said Williams' father, Richard, after watching his daughter win on Centre Court. "She was really trying, you know?"

On Saturday, the 30-year-old will try to become the first woman at least that age to win a major tournament since Martina Navratilova, who was 33 when she won Wimbledon in 1990.

"The older I get, the better I serve, I feel," Williams said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

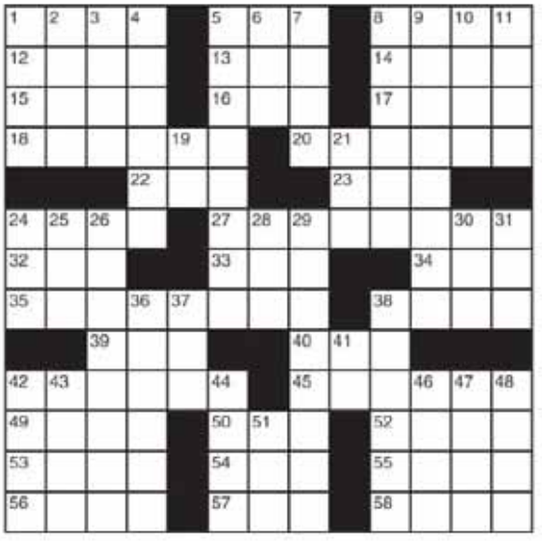
Sister power

Hours after reaching her seventh Wimbledon final, Serena Williams returned to Centre Court with sister Venus to secure a spot in the semifinals of the doubles tournament.

Serena Williams reacts during her semifinal match against Victoria Azarenka Thursday at Wimbledon in London. CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES

Across
1 Garden tools
5 DNA sharer, maybe
8 Recipe meas.
12 Desire
13 Salary
14 Canal zone?
15 Despot
16 Hostel
17 Littlest of the litter
18 Alaskan bear
20 Investigates
22 Storm center
23 Exploitation
24 Hannibal's hurdles
27 With intent to kill
32 Bishop's bailiwick
33 Ike's WWII command
34 Shoe width
35 Bright headlight
38 Menial laborer
39 Fella
40 Sra., across the Pyrenees
42 Convertible couch
45 Clerical worker in the Navy
49 Competent
50 Lubricant
52 Horse play?
53 Oktoberfest necessity
54 Buck's mate
55 Idolize
56 Proofreader's note
57 Indivisible
58 List-ending abbr.

Down
1 Tom's pal
2 Pasta that resembles rice
3 "Zounds!"
4 TV actor's hope
5 "Malcolm X" director
6 Writer Fleming
7 Harmonization
8 Saint of Avila
9 "Enter the Dragon" actor
10 Kitchen fixture
11 Letterman's "trick" performers
19 Ever, in verse
21 "What did you say?"
24 Blond shade
25 Floral accessory
26 "Fever" singer
28 Greek vowel
29 Motley Crue drummer
30 Zodiac sign
31 Longing
36 Politico Humphrey
37 "See ya"
38 Streisand classic
41 Yours truly
42 Applies lightly
43 Lend a sly hand
44 Old fogy
46 Academic
47 Part of T.A.E.
48 Yuletide refrain
51 Saturn auto model



		9	5		2			
	2					4	9	
1	7				6	3		
8		7	3				4	
				2				
	6				9	5		8
		1	2				6	3
	4	2					7	
			7		5	1		

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	5	6	4	8	1	9	3
6	3	9	5	2	1	7	8	4
1	4	8	7	3	9	6	2	5
7	6	3	4	9	2	8	5	1
5	9	1	3	8	6	2	4	7
8	2	4	1	7	5	9	3	6
9	1	7	2	5	4	3	6	8
4	8	6	9	1	3	5	7	2
3	5	2	8	6	7	4	1	9

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

A N R F Y L B J L N
J V Y P B O O A L D A O G O T V D G
R Y L B D W O T A J A D F G M A D F O ,
O M L B E W A G I V P R E E V W R
O G V R E I R D W ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT ACTOR JACK JUST EMPLOYED A LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER TO BE HIS LEMMON AIDE?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals F

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

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Saturday 21°/15° Sunny
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Check the 14 day trend.
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Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. A family feud is in the cards today but now that you know that, you can limit the chances of a serious falling-out by watching what you say.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. No matter how irritating someone may be, you must not let them get under your skin. Be on the move as much as possible today.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. What happens today will only be important if you choose to let it be important. That applies especially to money matters and business negotiations.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. You will be both assertive and ambitious today, which could cause problems if others get the impression that you care for nothing but your own glory. Tone it down a bit.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. You have something to say. It's something you think is important, but you have got to accept that, in saying it, you may upset a few people.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. You may wonder why you have been singled out for so much good fortune, but in the greater scheme of things, nothing happens without a reason. Enjoy what you get today.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You have what it takes to compete at the highest level, so don't let fear of failure hold you back. Get out there into the world and show creativity.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. If you are the kind of Scorpio who loves to travel, you could find yourself a long way from home over the next 24 hours. Don't worry about how you are going to get back.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. You will have energy to spare over the next 24 hours, but it is your Sagittarian enthusiasm that will lead to success. Focus on what you are good at and on what you enjoy.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You're under a lot of pressure and because the pressure comes mainly from partners and colleagues, you could fall out with someone today.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. You can achieve some remarkable things over the next few days, so forget about the easy life and push yourself harder than ever before.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. You've had your fill of talk and you've had your fill of trying to plan things out in great detail — all you want to do is get busy on a project that you believe in. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption Contest

"I didn't get cast in Star Wars, but look for me in the next Zoolander."
Blaine

MARKUS SCHREIBER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

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Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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+ taxes & fees $309

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Puerto Vallarta	from $99 + taxes & fees $338
Las Vegas	from $238 + taxes & fees $125
Los Angeles	from $258 + taxes & fees $109
Chicago	from $298 + taxes & fees $127
Frankfurt	from $339 + taxes & fees $558
Amsterdam	from $349 + taxes & fees $491
Honolulu	from $458 + taxes & fees $124
Sydney	from $459 + taxes & fees $913
New York	from $499 + taxes & fees $192
New Orleans	from $599 + taxes & fees $140
Johannesburg	from $979 + taxes & fees $675

Local Vacations

Whistler Family Special
3 Nights 4-Star
from $93◊
taxes & fees included

INCLUDES accom in the Village with a fully equipped kitchenette. ADD a tree trek canopy walk from $44. Price per person based on family of 4.

Campbell River Family Special
2 Nights — from $79◊ taxes & fees included

INCLUDES oceanfront accom overlooking the Strait of Georgia. Price per person based on family of 4. BOOK this package based on double occupancy from $176.

Quadra Island Family Special
2 Nights — from $99◊ taxes & fees included

INCLUDES cottage-style accom. Price per person based on family of 4. BONUS cultural centre admission for kids included. BOOK this package based on double occupancy from $224.

Harrison Hot Springs
2 Nights — from $169 taxes & fees included

ADD 2-day car rental with unlimited mileage from $40 per day.

Osoyoos 2 Nights 4-Star — from $239 taxes & fees included

INCLUDES 1-bedroom suite accom.

Vacations

Japan Air + 7 Nights
from $1299
+ taxes & fees $788

INCLUDES airfare into Tokyo, return from Osaka, 3 nights Tokyo accom, 2 nights Kyoto accom and 2 nights Osaka accom.

Australia Air + First 5 Nights — from $749 + taxes & fees $91

INCLUDES roundtrip airfare to Sydney and first 5 nights central accom.

Buenos Aires Air + 8 Nights — from $1269 + taxes & fees $604

INCLUDES downtown accom. BONUS daily breakfast included. UPGRADE to 4-star accom from $24 per night. ADD private tango show from $124.

Rio de Janeiro
Air + 7 Nights 4-Star — from $1659 + taxes & fees $439

INCLUDES Copacabana Beach accom. BONUS daily breakfast included. ADD Sugar Loaf tour from $112.

Cape Town
Air + 8 Nights 4-Star — from $1659 + taxes & fees $697

INCLUDES accom on Bantry Bay. BONUS daily breakfast included. ADD great white shark cage diving from $225.

USA

Anaheim Family Special
Air + 4 Nights
from $177◊
+ taxes & fees $66

INCLUDES accom near theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4. ADD *Disneyland* Resort 3-day *1-Park Per Day* Ticket from $235/adult, $219/child (ages 3-9). BOOK this package based on double occupancy from $353.

Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights — from $185* + taxes & fees $43

INCLUDES airfare from Bellingham and accom on the Strip.

Palm Springs
Air + 3 Nights 5-Star — from $399 + taxes & fees $138

INCLUDES downtown accom near restaurants and shopping.

San Diego Air + 4 Nights — from $675 + taxes & fees $136

INCLUDES central accom. UPGRADE to 4-star accom from $58 per night. ADD San Diego Zoo entry from $51.

Europe

Paris Air + Rail Pass
from $699
+ taxes & fees $518

INCLUDES airfare into Paris and a France-Italy 4-day rail pass.

London Air + 7 Nights — from $700 + taxes & fees $574

INCLUDES central accom near Russell Square. ADD Red Rover Thames hop-on, hop-off tour from $16.

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Europe 13-Day Tour — from $1269 taxes & fees included

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Cruise & Stay

San Francisco
Air + 2 Nights 4-Star
+ 2-Night Cruise
from $589
+ taxes & fees $89

INCLUDES 2-night cruise sailing Vancouver to San Francisco, 2-night downtown San Francisco accom and airfare back to Vancouver.

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Alaska 7-Night Cruise — from $558 + taxes & fees $115

CRUISE Vancouver to Seward and visit Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway and Glacier Bay. UPGRADE to oceanview stateroom from $7 per night.

Mexican Riviera
14-Night Cruise — from $1399 + taxes & fees USD $133

CRUISE roundtrip Vancouver and visit Los Angeles, Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta, San Diego, San Francisco. UPGRADE to oceanview stateroom from $14 per night.

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Los Cabos 7 Nights 4-Star	from $625 + taxes & fees $240

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